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INSIDE DECEMBER'S ISSUE

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THIS MONTH'S REMINDER

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas. On Friday, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 2, offices will once again be closed in observance of New Years.

MNBE breaks ground at Riverside Indian School



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Woody Anderson, MNBE Board Member John Freeman, Creek District Representative Roger Barnett, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Michael Nalley, and Steve Bighorse. photo by Gerald Wolford

by JOSH SLANE

MNN Staff Writer

ANADARKO — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise attended a groundbreaking ceremony at Riverside Indian School on Tuesday, Dec. 6 in Anadarko. MNBE was awarded a \$4.5 million dollar contract by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anadarko to build a new kitchen and dining hall at the BIA operated Riverside Indian School.

Representatives of MNBE at the Groundbreaking ceremony included Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, who is also the Chairman of the Board for MNBE,

John Freeman, Board Member, Roger Barnett, National Council Representative and Chairman of the Business and Governmental Committee, Michael Nalley, MNBE Director, Woody Anderson, MNBE Sales/Marketing Manager, Steve Bighorse, MNBE Manager Construction Services, Joe Loftis, MNBE Manager Highway Services and Rusty Edmiston, Project Manager.

"MNBE is extremely grateful to

Jocelyn Littlechief, Contracting Officer at the BIA in Anadarko and Pat Smith, Small Business Administration Officer, for working with MNBE to secure this sole source contract," said Nalley. "The new kitchen and dining hall will be the first of several new additions to the school. It will provide the school with a facility designed to serve the students of Riverside and other functions." Construction time is expected to last 18 months.



School officials hold ground blessing ceremony.

La-ne Lymhe (Golden Eagle) Honor Society

HOLDENVILLE — The Holdenville Public School system is participating in an Honor Society pilot program this school year. The sole intent of this program is to encourage the improvement of academic success of all eligible Johnson O'Malley fourth grade through 12th grade students.

This pilot program is designed to honor JOM students who have obtained a grade of an A or B at the end of each nine-week period. Students

making straight A's receive a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart. Students making A's and B's receive a \$10 gift card.

The pilot program was made possible by the concerned and caring citizens of the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

It is the hope and desire of the JOM committee, along with the Holdenville Indian Community Center, that this incentive will motivate the children to achieve success in his or her academic endeavors.



Pictured above is children from the Holdenville School participating in the honor society program. photo submitted

Tribe to offer live internet streaming of National Council meetings

OKMULGEE — Beginning in January, community members will not have to venture to Okmulgee to watch the National Council's regular session meetings. Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Information Technology, along with the Communications Department, will offer the opportunity for viewers to see governmental monthly meetings via internet streaming.

"The communities and citizens who have DSL or Cable internet connection will be able to view this event from our web page," said Ron Raper, Information Technology Manager. "Those communities with DSL will also be supplied a projector so it may be viewed by several citizens."

Not only will the National Council meetings be available to Creek community centers, but to anyone with DSL internet connection.

"The live viewing of the meetings will not be the only opportunity to watch the meetings in session," said Raper. "It will be archived on our web page for later viewing."

Donna Martin, Community Services Manager, is glad to see the services becoming available. "We want to get better services to the communities," said Martin. "I am glad we will have it."

Currently, citizens can view the recent regular session meeting on the tribal web page. The Communications Department has made the service available through internet streaming by logging on at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov under the video of National Council Meeting link.

Raper sees the service as benefiting citizens even further. "This service will supply our citizens and the world with information about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Haskell students recognized for bravery

LJWORLD.com Nov. 30, 2005

LAWRENCE, Kan. — City commissioners formally recognized four Haskell Indian Nations University students, who risked their own safety to notify residents of the Boardwalk Apartments during the Oct. 7 fire, Nov. 29. Commissioners read proclamations recognizing the actions of Zachary Noline, Joseph Anderson, Adam Washington and Lumbe

Sampson. The four Haskell students were in a nearby apartment about 1 a.m. on Oct. 7 when the fire began.

"It just happened so fast," Anderson said. "We ran and began pounding on doors and telling people 'fire, fire.' We just hoped people would hear us."

Anderson, Washington, and Sampson are Muscogee citizens.

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Office of the Principal Chief

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Greetings to all and a Happy Holidays.

A happy Christmas is something we would all like to have but not everyone is so fortunate. Our elders are always trying to keep healthy and the young families are trying to provide for their own families.

I'm sure many can remember the holidays when gifts and good food were not available, but all Indians are survivors. The most important things in life are family, food and shelter. Give us this and most people can get by without the finer things in life.

I was appointed to represent the Eastern Oklahoma BIA Budget Committee by the Inter-Tribal Council of Five Tribes.

We met last week in California to finalize the national budget. The citizens of the Creek Nation should be very proud



of our nation being such a solid and organized government. Many reservation tribes are so poor and provide so little for their people that we probably rank in the top twelve tribes of America out of 560 tribal nations. Many times I disagree with legislation that has been passed by our National Council and my only avenue to stop the process is to veto. After being vetoed they can override my veto by having 18 votes to override. If they have the 18 votes then it becomes law. Last Friday I vetoed the following bills:

1) NCA 05-271, National Council raises introduced by representative

Pickering of Eufaula;

2) NCA 05-265, \$3500 for employee party introduced by representative Parish of Muskogee;

3) TR 05-160, Tobacco bill that mandates that I cannot go to State capital to negotiate with governor Henry, introduced by representative Tiger of Bristow; and

4) TR 05-156, For ONNAM gaming to operate Okmulgee casino with MOA. Introduced by representative Barnett of Creek District.

Best wishes to everyone and a very safe and happy holiday. MVTO

Second Opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

I trust that everyone had a filling Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas. A time of year when words such as peace and goodwill are foremost in our thoughts.

I read many books concerning the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. One I have read stands out foremost at this time. If you have an opportunity, you may want to read "Red Man's Land, White Man's Law," Second Edition; by Wilcomb E. Washburn.

The following is a brief excerpt from that book beginning on page 5 under the chapter name "Theoretical Assumptions": With the discovery of the New World, the theoretical belief, expounded by some scholastic theorists, and implied by others, that there could be only one Lord of the earth and the Pope was the representative of that power, came to have the potentiality of being realized in fact. Perhaps the Pope could now establish his jurisdiction over the infidels, as well as over the faithful, in fact as well as in theory. Columbus, the "Christ Bearer," as his name and his mission implied, seemed to bring closer the day when all the world would be the Lord's. This confident spirit echoes from the famous bull *Inter Caetera* of May 3, 1493, which the Spanish rulers obtained of the Holy Father on Columbus's triumphant return. The Pope noted that "Among other works well pleasing to the Divine



Majesty and cherished of our heart, this assuredly ranks highest, that in our times especially the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself." The Pope's joy was expressed in a practical form by which he did "give, grant, and assign forever to you and your heirs and successors, kings of Castile and Leon, and all singular the aforesaid countries and islands . . . hitherto discovered . . . and to be discovered . . . together with all their dominions, cities, camps, places, and villages, and all rights, jurisdictions, and appurtenances of the same." The Pope expected Spain to convert the Indians, a responsibility which the Spanish interpreted as they saw fit. The Papal gift, and the later Treaty of Tordesillas establishing a Portuguese and Spanish division of the world, avoided the chance of national controversy over the extent of the claims. It did not in itself initiate the discoveries or the conquest. Those enterprises were fully authorized by the heads of state in their policies, charters and agreements with navigators such as Columbus. The papal bulls and international agreements confirmed and solemnized the arrangements that would keep Spaniards and Portuguese in separate spheres of action.

The status of the American Indian was locked into Catholic doctrine and Spanish legalism almost from the moment of discovery. The relationship was not to be merely that of conqueror and conquered. The Indian was condemned by a preexisting theory to a status by which he served as a material resource to be exploited and as a spiritual object to be saved. His dependence was foreordained by his

attacker. His status as a member of an independent community or nation could be formally denied even when he was able to maintain that independence against his oppressors.

The most direct and naïve expression of the Europeans assumption of preexisting status in the New World is contained in the Spanish "Requirement" (Requerimiento) which was ordered to be read to the Indians by a notary before hostilities could legally be commenced. The Requirement was: read to trees and empty huts when no Indians were to be found. Captains muttered its theological phrases into their beards on the edge of sleeping Indian settlements, or even a league away before starting the formal attack, and at times some leather-lunged Spanish notary hurled its sonorous phrases after the Indians as they fled into the mountains . . . Ship captains would sometimes have the document read from the deck as they approached an island . . . The document began with a brief explanation of the Creation and subsequent scattering of peoples.

Of all these nations God our Lord gave charge to one man, called St. Peter, that he should be Lord and Superior of all the men in the world, that all should obey him, and that wherever men should live, and under whatever law, sect, or belief they should be; and he gave him the world for his kingdom and jurisdiction. And he commanded him to place his seat in Rome, as the spot most fitting to rule the world from; but also he permitted him to have his seat in any other part of the world, and to judge and govern all Christians, Moors, Jews, Gentiles, and all other sects. This man was called Pope, as if to say, Admini-

strable Great Father and Governor of men. . . One of these Pontiffs, who succeeded that St. Peter as Lord of the World, in the dignity and seat which I have before mentioned, made donation of these isles and Terra-firma to the aforesaid King and Queen and to their successors, our lords, with all that there are in these territories, as is contained in certain writings which passed upon the subject as aforesaid, which you can see if you wish. . . Therefore as best we can, we ask and require you . . . that you acknowledge the Church as the Ruler and Superior of the whole world and the high priest called Pope, and in his name the King and Queen Dona Juana our lords, in his place, as superiors and lords and kings of these islands and this Terra-firma by virtue of the said donation. . . If you do so, you will do well. . . But if you do not do this, and wickedly and intentionally delay to do so, I certify to you that, with the help of God, we shall forcibly enter into your country and shall make war against you in all ways and manners that we can, and shall subject you to the yoke and obedience of the Church and of their Highnesses; we shall take you and your wives and your children, and shall make slaves of them, and as such shall sell and dispose of them as their Highnesses may command; and we shall take away your goods, and shall do all the harm and damage that we can, as to vassals who do not obey, and refuse to receive their lord, and resist and contradict him; and we protest that the deaths and losses which Shall accrue from this are your fault,

SEE SECOND A-6

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

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LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Citizen shares experience

The following is intended for Indian People. My perspective comes from an Oklahoma Indian's viewpoint, but is relevant for all Indians. I want to share my personal historical research and accounting which resulted from my Individual Indian Money (IIM) account records which I began compiling after my father died and I became the sole heir to his federally restricted Indian land and mineral holdings in Oklahoma.

I am Eddie Jacobs, a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian citizen and great grandson of Chitto Harjo, also known as Crazy Snake, well known Muscogee Creek traditional leader who led tribal members against allotment; the break up of tribal lands, located in present day Oklahoma. I serve as chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Mineral Owners Association (OIMOA), and I am the named founder and former chairman of Oklahoma Indian Land and Mineral Associated Nations (OILMAN).

The allotment of our tribal lands ended in 1906, just before Oklahoma became a State of the Union in 1907. The Oklahoma Enabling Act passed on June 16, 1906, which united the Oklahoma Indian territories, tribal lands, to become Oklahoma, the 46th State of the Union.

Oklahoma Constitution, Article I, Section 3 finds its origin in the intent and purpose of the Congress of the United States, a "disclaimer clause" for Indians, tribes, or nations will not be taxed. Article I, section 3 of the Oklahoma Constitution adopted by the people of Oklahoma renounced any claims to Indian lands and exempted

from taxation such property as may be exempt by reason of treaty stipulations, existing between the Indians and the United States government, or by Federal laws, during the force and effect of such treaties or Federal laws.

Apparently, at a point of time in the late 1980's, the Oklahoma Constitution Revision Commission sought the input of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission chaired by Claude Cox, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, on a proposed revision of the Oklahoma Constitution, in particular Article I, section 3. In my opinion, the language cannot be revised since that was the language in the Oklahoma Enabling Act, which allowed Oklahoma to become a state. Had the vote of the people not adopted the Oklahoma Constitution, because of bias to Indians and tribal nations in the Enabling Act held by some members of the Republican Party, it could have gone back to congress to pass a new Enabling Act that would not be biased and would be fair, alike to all persons, their interests, and place; and a new act would establish an equal footing clause. Congress should not be able to change an Enabling Act that made a state a part of the union. Despite opposition to the official vote or count for adoption of the Constitution, the Oklahoma Enabling Act stands as unamendable. The Enabling Act cannot be amended.

In 1907, the State of Oklahoma imposed a tax on some individual Indians, but in 1908 the state was forced to return those taxes. Part of the provisions of the allotment of Muscogee Creek lands issued in 1906 was a tax exemption for a period of 25 years. During this period, vast

amounts of oil were recovered from many Muscogee Creek allotments (oil and gas was discovered in 1901 in the vicinity of Tulsa, Red Fork, Sapulpa, and other towns of the Creek Nation), as well as Osage county. Osage county is the mineral holdings of Osage tribal members and heirs. Their interests have always been made the exception from federal legislation.

Apparently, the State of Oklahoma could not stand that many Muscogee Creeks were becoming millionaires, which the state could not tax. In 1928, people from the State of Oklahoma were able to get the federal congressional government to pass a law to impose a production tax on members of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Creek). Even though the law was passed in 1928, the 25 year tax exemption could not be imposed until 1931. The historical individual Indian monies "IIM records," I compiled dating back to 1912 confirm these tax deductions. The tax exemptions were extended another 25 years to 1956 and continue as long as the land and minerals remain in federally restricted status.

In the period from 1928 to 1947, other laws were also passed to continue the taxation that has been illegally imposed. United States Solicitor Ed Cohen informed me that these laws are considered good "only" because no one has challenged these laws. As our trustee, shouldn't the United States' solicitors be the ones to challenge these laws since we Indians are federal instrumentalities? And, the federal congressional

SEE LETTERS B-7

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the September 29, 2005, Special Session.

September 29, Special session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; **Lena Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Billy Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptvce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Robert Huff**, Tulsa District; **Paula Willis**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business:

- approved (16-0-0) NCA 05-202, authorizing the health systems to make payment in the amount of \$150,318.00 as settlement for the Hill-Burton obligations of the Okemah Hospital – sponsor: **David Nichols**; cosponsor: **R. Jones, D. Harjo, L. Fields, T. Pickering**;

- approved (16-0-0) NCA 05-223, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Health System – sponsor: **David Nichols**; cosponsors: **R. Jones, D. Harjo, L. Fields, T. Pickering** (\$1,107,000.00)

October 18, Emergency session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh was excused; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptvce was excused; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptvce; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa was excused; and **Robert Huff**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business:

representatives **Fields** and **Nichols** arrived during executive session;

- approved (16-0-2) NCA 05-004, granting full settlement authority to the speaker in the case of **A.D. Ellis** vs. Muscogee (Creek) National Council – sponsor: **Richard Berryhill**;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee and **Fields**, Tukvptvce.

October 20, Extraordinary session

Absent were: **George Tiger**, Creek; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee was excused; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee was excused; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa will be late; **Ronald Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Robert Huff**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business:

representative **Quiett** arrived during committee-as-a-whole;

- approved (14-1-0) TR 05-153, authorizing the Principal Chief to submit an application to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, requesting the Fountainhead Resort property located in McIntosh County be placed in trust and approved for the construction and operation of a gaming facility – sponsor: **Anthony Notaro**;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved (15-0-0) NCA 05-252, amending NCA 04-233, as amended by NCA 05-065, to authorize the GOAB to complete additional renovations to the Tulsa casino – sponsor: **Sandra Parish**;

representative **Jones** arrived before vote count was taken;

- approved (14-1-1) NCA 05-253, appropriating funds to be used for costs associated with the ownership of the Fountainhead Resort property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma – sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$500,000.00);

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; abstain were: **Jones**, Okmulgee

October 29, Quarterly session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee was excused;

Sandra Golden, Okfuskee; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee; **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**, Tulsa was excused; **Robert Huff**, Tulsa was excused;

representative **Golden** arrived during Chief's report; **Pickering** arrived during approval of minutes;

Veto Message:

- vetoed (12-10-0) NCA 05-230, amending NCA 05-106 (amending the constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to add a section 2 to article IX) – returned by the Principal Chief as a Veto with objections;

voting no were: **Notaro**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Yahola**, Tukvptvce; **Willits**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business:

- approved (21-0-0) TR 05-131, authorizing and adopting the rental property admission and occupancy policy of the Housing Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – sponsor: **Sue Johnson**;



representative **Golden** and **Harjo** were out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (11-7-1) TR 05-145, confirming the nomination of **George B. Almerigi** to serve as a Supreme Court Justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – sponsor: **Robert Jones**;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Willits**, Tulsa;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 05-147, approving a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alabama Historical Commission, and Head Companies, LLC, regarding data recovery procedures on and the treatment of human remains from Plash Island, Baldwin County, Alabama – sponsor: **Anthony Notaro**;

- approved as amended (21-0-0) TR 05-148, authorizing the gaming operations authority board to relinquish all authority and control of the gaming food concession within the Okemah Casino to the Okemah Indian Community – sponsor: **Lena Wind**;

- approved as amended (21-0-0) TR 05-149, authorizing a limited waiver on the nation's sovereign immunity and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the subscription/service agreement between Nulinx International, Inc. and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – sponsor: **Nancy Watson**;

- approved (17-4-0) TR 05-150, recognizing the hardship being experienced by Muscogee (Creek) citizens of the City of Wetumka as a result of price inflation and affirming the nation's commitment to assisting these citizens – sponsor: **Shirlene Ade**; cosponsors: **D. Nichols**; **T. McIntosh**; **L. Fields**; **D. Harjo**; **R. Williams**; **S. Parish**; **G. Tiger**; **R. Barnett**; **B. Chalakee**; **R. Jones**; **S. Golden**; **N. Watson**; **T. Yahola**; **R. Cleghorn**;

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 05-151, amending the "rehabilitation of privately owned homes policy" of the housing division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to include unprobated trust/restricted property as an eligible category for services – sponsor: **Billy Chalakee**;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 05-152, authorizing the gaming operations authority board to extend the attorney agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming operations authority board and **Michael Minnis & Associates, P.C.** – sponsor: **Roger Barnett**;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 05-171, authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10% for the department of Human Development, workforce investment ACT/CSP, to expend the 2005 program funds in order that the grant may be completed – sponsor: **Larry Bible**;

- tabled (21-0-0) NCA 05-205, establishing the department of Tourism and recreation for codification in Title 16, "Executive Branch," of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and appropriating start-up funds – sponsor: **Billy Chalakee**; co-sponsor(s): **Sandra Golden** (\$300,000.00)

- approved as amended (21-0-0) NCA 05-214, authorizing a budget modification in

excess of 10% for the department of Human Development, Workforce Investment ACT/supplement youth program – sponsor: **Nancy Watson**;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 05-219, amending NCA 04-110 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation nurse investment and scholarship ACT and appropriating funds to purchase 10 slots within the registered nurse program at OSU-Okmulgee) – sponsor: **Cherrah Quiett**;

- postponed (13-8-0) NCA 05-235, authorizing a special appropriation for the third year of support to the Okmulgee County YMCA water play park – sponsor: **David Nichols**; co-sponsor(s): **Ron Cleghorn** (\$50,000.00);

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Willits**, Tulsa;

- approved (16-5-0) NCA 05-239, authorizing a special appropriation to Shelton School & evaluation center to assist with the educational expenses of **Kelsi Sewell** – sponsor: **Duke Harjo** (\$1,000.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptvce; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (19-1-1) NCA 05-241, authorizing a special appropriation to purchase two (2) power chairs and two (2) batteries for use by Creek Citizens in need – sponsor: **Sandra Golden**; co-sponsor(s): **N. Watson**; **R. Williams**; **S. Parish** (1,000.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee;

abstain were: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 05-242, amending NCA 05-198 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds for the Duck Creek Casino expansion) to allow the Duck Creek Indian Community to have a voice in the Casino expansion – sponsor: **David**

Nichols;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 05-243, authorizing a special appropriation for 100 Muscogee (Creek) churches to assist with providing Christmas to Creek families – sponsor: **Sandra Golden**; co-sponsor(s): **N. Watson**; **R. Williams**; **S. Parish** (\$30,000.00);

representative **Watson** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 05-244, authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10% for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation Board of Commissioners – sponsor: **Paula Willis**;

representative **Willits** was excused;

- approved as amended (16-3-0) NCA 05-245, amending NCA 05-238 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to support members of the United States Congress who represent the Congressional Districts within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – sponsor: **George Tiger**; cosponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$16,900.00);

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptvce;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 05-246, amending NCA 04-192 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriation funds for the construction of a new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Head Start building) to appropriate additional funds to include a storm shelter and bus driveway – sponsor: **Nancy Watson** (\$1,114,108.00)

- approved (18-2-0) NCA 05-247, authorizing a special appropriation to assist Muscogee (Creek) Citizens of living within the City of Wetumka with the rising cost of electricity – sponsor: **Shirlene Ade**; cosponsors: **D. Harjo**, **R. Williams**, **S. Parish**, **G. Tiger**, **R. Barnett**, **B. Chalakee**, **R. Jones**, **S. Golden**, **N. Watson**, **T. Yahola**, **L. Fields**, **T. McIntosh**, **D. Nichols**, **R. Cleghorn** (\$50,000.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; and **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee;

- approved (16-4-0) NCA 05-249, authorizing a special appropriation to the tribal town-center organization to pay utilities – sponsor: **Sandra Golden** (\$1,000.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (15-5-0) NCA 05-250, authorizing a special appropriation to the Tallahassee (Wvkokaye) Ceremonial Ground to attend the 35th annual Thanksgiving Day powwow and homecoming by the Poarch Band Creek Indians – sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$2,000.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representatives **Nichols** and **Wind** were out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved as amended (10-8-0) NCA 05-254; authorizing a special appropriation to assist a Creek citizen with funds to pay medical expenses incurred due to emergency referral – sponsored: **Nancy Watson**; cosponsor: **Sandra Golden** (\$22,590.00);

voting no were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptvce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representatives **Nichols** and **Wind** were out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (15-3-0) NCA 05-255, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen – sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$1,600.00);

voting no were: **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representatives **Nichols** and **Wind** were out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (18-0-0) NCA 05-256, authorizing a special appropriation to provide supplementary funds to the comprehensive

SEE COUNCIL A-6



SANDRA PARISH
MUSCOGEE DISTRICT, SEAT A:
NCA-05-265

"I learned that there would not be an employee Christmas party this year because a concern about the space for it to be held in. I approached Chief Ellis about the Council providing an entertainment luncheon for the employees and we decided it would be a good thing. I've recently learned that the legislation for the employee luncheon has been vetoed by the Chief for certain reasons beyond my knowledge. In no way did the council intend to undermine the chief with the employees, we just wanted to show our appreciation for the hard work that they do for the tribe."



GEORGE TIGER
CREEK DISTRICT, SEAT A:
TR 05-160

"I looked at it from a couple perspectives. I know the principal chief has been under a lot of pressure on this issue and I think it would showcase a great amount of solidarity if there was some compromise to come to a suitable conclusion. I also know that in past dealings with our state, that there have been demands by the state of Oklahoma that have been met, so I really think this legislation will be a good way to make sure that we always continue to have fair negotiations between the two governments."

Firewood project coming to an end

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and the Creek Nation Community Services Division's Firewood project is coming to a close and it has been a success. According to Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE, "we have been able to distribute approximately 125 to 150 ricks of wood to Creek families. In today's market that is approximately \$6000 to \$8000 worth of wood we have been able to give back to our tribal citizens during a time when energy costs are high."



Pictured above is MNBE workers cutting and splitting wood on the industrial park. photo Josh Slane

Nation Industrial park north of the tribal complex. "Della Cherry, Deputy Director of the Community Services Division and Pat Frank, her assistant, deserve recognition for spearheading the applications for the firewood," said Nalley. "All the firewood should be gone by the second week of December."

"The MNBE Board of Directors led by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill has been very supportive of the Firewood project," said Nalley. "We appreciate the Chief and his office and members of the National Council for helping spread the word to tribal citizens."

Industrial Park coming along well

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Highway Services Division is nearing completion of the streets and civil work for the new 40 acre Creek Nation Industrial Park located north of the Tribal Complex.



"We anticipate completing the streets by the second or third week of December unless weather delays us,"

said Michael Nalley, Director. "We are waiting on the engineering company to complete the utility drawings which we anticipate having by January 2006 with a completion date of the utilities by early spring. Joe Loftis, Manager of the Highway Services Division and his crew have done an outstanding job of moving this project forward."

Trade and Commerce Authority continues growth

OKMULGEE — From a dream, to a vision, to a reality, that's the very simplified version of the history and steps that have been taken in the young life of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Tribal Trade and Commerce Authority over the last three years. Ushering in a new era of economic opportunity, growth, and prosperity, the Tribal Trade and Commerce Authority (TTCA) has made huge strides in rising from literally nowhere into becoming a major financial force and helping benefit the tribe, its citizen's and their businesses within Oklahoma and far beyond.

With its own business facilities located near the tribe's headquarters in Okmulgee, The TTCA has grown into a thriving entity, employing over 100 people in the local community. Branching out while seeking entry into local, state, national, and international markets with a unique group of products and services, the TTCA helps provide strong management and solid business direction for no less than eight businesses that are as diverse as the tribe's history.

Throughout the state, small-to-medium-to-large Indian-Owned & Operated businesses contribute vital support for social programs and valuable revenues in the communities they serve. Whether developing a 4,000 acre farm in Hanna in the southeast portion of the state or opening new diverse businesses, the TTCA presents a wide variety of business opportunities helping generate necessary venture capital and commerce.

With director Daniel Wesley leading the group, TTCA's "mission" is to provide the tribe with new opportunities to invest in needed health, education, business, and other services that provide for the long-term growth, strength, and achievements of its citizens. According to Wesley, TTCA intends on having solid economic impact and become a strong benefactor to the Tribe and local/regional communities in the foreseeable future.

"Our businesses are leading the way to help provide quality jobs and tax revenues to positively affect and contribute to the general health and welfare of the Creek citizens and our local economies," said Wesley. "It is our goal to seek ways to develop cultural exchanges that involve respecting our heritage and helping educate local people about the Creek society and how we can benefit them by working together toward a positive future."

As one of its main goals, TTCA generates economic development through the creation of partnership-driven business opportunities and the presentation of special cultural events to enhance the tribe's financial, social and political future. The diverse companies and employees that make up the TTCA are also well-known for providing volunteers and donating products or labor for a wide variety of tribal, City of Okmulgee and local community events or programs.

"As a good neighbor and solid corporate citizen, we like to do our part in contributing our time and efforts to local events," Wesley said.

Since its inception as voted on by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's National Council in 1999, the purpose of the TTCA is to operate successful business enterprises, ventures and economic development projects for the economic benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its citizens.

The TTCA offices are located at 1010 E. Eufaula (adjacent to the Lighthorse Police Department) in Okmulgee and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

For more information about TTCA or an interview (by appointment) with Director Daniel Wesley, contact Carmen Johnson at (918) 732-7765 or contact her by e-mail at cjohnson@muscogeemaging.com.

Happy Holidays from all of us



Creek Council House Museum
105 W. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918.756.2324



IT'S ALL ABOUT...JACKPOTS



**EVERYDAY IN DECEMBER
8:00, 9:00, AND 10:00 P.M.**

**PLAYERS ACCUMULATING \$25.00
OR MORE CREDIT WILL RECEIVE A
REGISTRATION SLIP FOR:**

**NEWS YEAR'S EVE MAGIC
LAS VEGAS FOR TWO!**

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD
DECEMBER 31 AT MIDNIGHT!**



**HOT SEAT
AND**

SPIN TO WIN

CASH & PRIZES!!!

**DECEMBER 15 ~ BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.
MARDI GRAS ~ ANCIENT TREASURE
LUCKY LIBERTY ~ LIVE WIRE DELUXE
DIAMONDS & DABBERS ~ 7 UNDER PAR**

~I-40 EXIT 227 ~ CLEARVIEW RD~

OKEMAH, OK 74859

918.623.0072

Division of Health Administration: Patient rights and responsibilities

OKMULGEE — Patients, families, and visitors are provided with information and encouraged to communicate concerns when not satisfied with care, services or facilities through departmental staff, supervisors and clinical managers. Each written complaint/suggestion is properly and promptly investigated and appropriate action is taken when necessary. Patients presenting written complaints need to be assured that the logging of the complaints will not compromise their future access to care. The Board of Directors, Administration and staff support every patient's right to considerate care that ensures their personal dignity and respects their psychosocial, cultural and spiritual values.

When a patient, family member or other visitor expresses the concern in writing: The concern is initially managed by the recipient of the concern. Then it is communicated to the manager of the department involved.

The Board of Directors, Administration and staff support every patient's rights to considerate care. You will be treated with dignity, compassion and respect as an individual.

Patients will be provided information about the health benefits that he/

she can receive in a way they can understand.

Patients will be offered treatment according to their health care needs. You, and any persons you choose, will be involved in decisions about your care, including care at the end of life.

Patients will be given, in writing, the name of the provider in charge of their care. Patients also have the right to agree to receive or refuse treatment. Refusing treatment will not affect their rights to future care.

Patients have the right to have their pain assessed and treated. The patient and their treatment team will develop a pain management plan together.

Patient's may name someone else to make health care decisions for them, if they are unable to do so. If a patient has questions or complaints, they are asked to talk to their treatment team or the patient advocate.

Patients have the right to seek help from their treatment team and/or a patient advocate if they have problems or complaints. Patients may make suggestions or complain in writing, without fear of reprisal. Suggestions often improve the quality of care. Patients have the right to be protected. Patients will be re-

ferred to the appropriate person or service for help if you or the MCNDHS believes that you have been neglected, abused or exploited.

Patients should tell their provider about their current condition, their medical history, medications prescribed or over-the-counter, as well as herbal preparations, that they are taking, and any other information that affects their health. Patients should ask questions if they don't understand something about their care. Patients are responsible for following the treatment plan that they develop with their treatment team. It is important to tell their treatment team when they feel pain and to ask for relief. The treatment team will work with you to improve the plan for managing your pain.

Patients are asked to respect the rights of other patients and staff, and to follow the facility's rules.

"We are pleased you have selected us to provide your health care," said Rick O'Mara. "We plan to make your visit as pleasant as possible. Please talk with your treatment team members or staff member if you have any questions or would like more information about your rights and responsibilities."

Hand washing

By Lawrence Vark, CMO/DO

OKMULGEE — The most important thing that you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands. By frequently washing your hands, you wash away germs that you have picked up from other people, or from contaminated surfaces, or from animals and animal waste.

What happens if you do not wash your hands frequently? You pick up germs from other sources and then you infect yourself when you touch your eyes, or your nose, or your mouth. One of the most common ways people catch colds is by rubbing their nose or their eyes after their hands have been contaminated with the cold virus.

You can also spread germs directly to others or onto surfaces that other people touch. And before you know it, everybody around you is getting sick.

The important thing to remember is that, in addition to colds, some pretty serious diseases — like hepatitis A, meningitis, and infectious diarrhea — can easily be prevented if people make a habit of washing their hands.

When should you wash your hands? It is especially important to wash your hands before, during, and after you prepare food, before you eat, and after you use the bathroom, after handling animals or animal waste, when your hands are dirty, and more frequently when someone in your home is sick.

What is the correct way to wash your hands? First wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place the bar soap on a rack and allow it to drain. Next rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Continue for 10 - 15 seconds or about the length of a little tune. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. Rinse well and dry your hands.

It is estimated that one out of three people do not wash their hands after using the rest room. So these tips are also important when you are out in public. So, as you can see, washing your hands frequently and properly can help you and your loved ones avoid a lot of uncomfortable days in a sick bed.

Important notice from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Systems: Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

OKMULGEE — Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about the current prescription drug coverage you received from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System and the new Medicare prescription drug coverage available Jan. 1, 2006 (Medicare D). It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

Starting Jan. 2, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to everyone with Medicare. There are several things you need to know and do.

First, in October, you should have received information in the mail from Medicare and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs). These mailings may ask whether or not your current prescription coverage is as good as the new Medicare drug coverage to determine whether you have "Creditable Coverage". The Indian Health Service has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by all IHS and Tribal sites including Muscogee (Creek) Nation is creditable coverage. This means that the amount the IHS or Tribes expects to pay for prescription drugs for individuals covered by IHS or Tribes is the same or more than what the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage would be expected to pay on average. This creditable coverage extends to all beneficiaries who are eligible for services from the IHS or Tribes/Tribal organizations such as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Systems.

Knowing whether or not your current prescription coverage is creditable coverage is important. It protects you should you choose not to enroll in the Medicare benefit as soon as you are eligible (for most Medicare beneficiaries that is between Nov. 15, 2005 and May 15, 2006).

For the general population, individuals who do not enroll in the Medicare PDP after their current prescription drug coverage ends, will pay more to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later. If after May 15, 2006, a Medicare beneficiary goes 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage; their monthly premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month after

May 15, 2006 that they do not have that coverage. For example, if a person goes nineteen months without coverage, their premium will always be at least 19% higher than what most other people pay. They would have to pay this higher premium as long as they have Medicare coverage. In addition, they may have to wait until next November to enroll.

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new Medicare prescription drug plan after May 15, 2006, you may need a copy of this notice when you enroll to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

Should you have any questions about this "creditable coverage" letter or Medicare D, please contact the Patient Benefit Coordinator at your Health Facility. A listing is attached.

MEDICARE PART D ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Facilities are currently accepting Medicare Part D recipients for information and enrollment. Presentations are currently being held at the Elderly Nutrition Centers and Health Facilities, and question you may have may be addressed at Elderly Nutrition Centers or with the Patient Benefit counselors at your clinic Medicare Part D is:

- Medicare Part D is Medicare Drug Insurance
- Medicare Part D is optional.
- People with both Medicare and Medicaid will receive drug insurance coverage from Medicare (not Medicaid) beginning January 1, 2006.
- People with Medicaid only (no Medicare) will see no change in their Medicaid.

• People with other drug insurance should talk with their drug insurance plan to see if the plan they have is just as good as Medicare or contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Benefits Counselor at your clinic.

• By enrolling in a plan you are to select from a network of pharmacies that best meet your need.

• To avoid paying enrollment penalties after May 15, 2006, please keep the attached letter or get one from your patient benefits counselor at your clinic.

For more information or questions, contact Daniel Wind, Benefits Counselor, at (918) 756-3334.

Meetings scheduled

Koweta Elderly Nutrition Program
Dec. 13, 12:30pm

Muscogee Elderly Nutrition Program
Dec. 15, 11:00am

Eufaula Indian Health Center
918-689-2547
Dec. 16, 10:00am-3:00pm

Okmulgee Indian Health Center
918-758-2720
Dec. 20, 12:00 pm-4:00pm

Sapulpa Elderly Nutrition Program
918-224-9310
Dec. 21, 11:30am

Creek Nation receives Tribal Tobacco Control and Prevention Award

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma's Health System has been awarded a \$1,250,000 grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. This very competitive grant award for Tribal Tobacco Control and Prevention" was announced Sept. 20, 2005. News of the grant award was welcomed by Del Nutter, Health System CEO, Cynthia Tainpeah, Tobacco Program Manager, and Chief A.D. Ellis who said this is a very much needed program and he is proud to have this type of service available to the citizens.

Funds from this award will be used to conduct a five-year implementation and evaluation of *Second Wind*. *Second Wind* is a culturally relevant tobacco cessation curriculum that was developed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Support Center for Tobacco Programs under a previously funded cooperative agreement with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention Office of Smoking and Health.

In 2000, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention Office of Smoking and Health funded one national network and seven tribal Support Centers for Tobacco Programs, each of which was charged with identifying and developing culturally competent strategies and/or material to reach AI/AN populations. From the seven Tribal Support Centers, Muscogee (Creek) Nation is honored to be only one of the two to be funded for another five years.

Available national data suggest that American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest tobacco

use rate (41%) among minority populations. This disproportionate rate of commercial tobacco use translates into health disparities.

Until recently, the only interventions available to AI/AN commercial tobacco users were those developed by and for the mainstream population, clearly, the data on commercial tobacco use by AI/AN populations suggest that such interventions have failed to impact prevalence rates. This high prevalence rate among AI/AN populations speak to the need for culturally and community competent strategies, curricula, and tools, tailored for AI/AN population, that address the health disparities caused by commercial tobacco abuse. This new finding will allow the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program to expand available cessation services by training and sharing information to area tribal, urban, and IHS health care facilities.

The Health System and the Tobacco Prevention Program would like to offer a special thank you to the many organizations and agencies that extended their support of the proposal: Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System Board, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief's Office, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Health System, and the various programs that they have had the privilege to partner with throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HOUSING PROGRAMS

SURVEY

We request your cooperation in responding to the following survey developed by the Housing Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to help assess the needs of our Creek Citizens. The information received from this survey will be used to evaluate and hopefully improve the effectiveness of our services. If you have any questions regarding the survey call (918) 752-3231 or 800-259-5050 ext. 3231. MVTO.

Please circle the correct answer or fill in the blank.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

- What is your age?
18-25 26-40 41-55 56-61 65+
- Are you filling this survey out yourself? Yes No
• If no, who is helping you fill out this survey?
Child Neighbor Other
- Marital Status: Married Single Widowed Divorced
- Education:
High School Completed College
Some College Graduate School
- Including yourself, what is the total number of people living with you? _____
- Not including yourself, what are the AGES of other people living with you?
Age (in years)
Male: _____
Female: _____
- Which county do you live in?
Creek Muskogee Seminole
Hughes Okfuskee Tulsa
McIntosh Okmulgee Wagoner
- If you live outside the Creek Nation boundaries, where? _____
- Do you live in town? Yes No
• If yes, what town? _____
- If no, what town do you live closest to? _____

INCOME/EMPLOYMENT

- What is your annual income?
under \$10,000 \$30,000-\$39,999
\$10,000-\$19,999 \$40,000-\$49,999
\$20,000-\$29,999 \$50,000+
- Are you presently working? Yes No
• If yes, what town do you work in? _____
- Do you work and live in the same town? Yes No
• If no, how far is it to your work? _____
- Would you be willing to move to the town where you work? Yes No
- If you are not working what is your income source?
Unemployment SSI Other
Retirement Veteran's
Social Security TANF

HOUSING

- What describes your primary residence?
Own Rent Other
Purchasing Live with family
- If your renting, what type of dwelling? House Apartment Trailer
- How long have you been renting?
1yr or less 1-3 yrs 4-5 yrs 6+ yrs
- How many bedrooms do you have?
1 2 3 4
- Do you have a storm shelter? Yes No
• If yes, is it usable? Yes No
• If no, where do you go in emergency?
Stay home Public storm shelter
Neighbors house
- Describe your present housing condition: Poor Fair Good
- Do you have indoor running water? Yes No
- Do you have a working indoor bathroom? Yes No
- Does your house stay cool in the summer? Yes No
- Does your house stay warm in the winter? Yes No
- Do you have electrical problems? Yes No
- Does your roof leak? Yes No
- If yes, are there any visible signs of damage? Yes No
- Does your medical/physical condition require you to have handicap features in your house? Yes No
- Does the house you presently live in have handicap features? Yes No
- If no, what kind of handicap features would help you get around better in your house?
Raised stool Ramps
Wider doors Bars by the stool
and tub
- Do you use an aide to help you get around? Yes No
• If yes what kind?
Cane Walker Wheelchair
- Have you applied for any services through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division (Authority)? Yes No
- If yes, what services did you apply for?
Indian home Low Rent Apartment
Home Rehab Mortgage Assistance

A. LOW RENT APARTMENTS

- Have you applied for a low rent apartment? Yes No
- Are you on the waiting list for an apartment? Yes No

- Are you presently living in a low rent apartment? Yes No
If yes, what apartment complex do you live in? Okmulgee Eufaula
Checotah Okemah
- How long have you lived there? _____
- Have you lived in low rent apartment before? Yes No
If yes, what apartment complex did you live in? Okmulgee Eufaula
Checotah Okemah
- How long did you live there? _____

B. INDIAN HOME (Mutual Help or Lease with Option to Purchase)

- Which best describes your living situation?
I have applied for an Indian home
I am on a waiting list
I live in an Indian home
I am paying for my Indian home
I have paid off my Indian home
- If you are living in an Indian home, has Housing made repairs or rehabbed your home? Yes No
- If you paid your Indian home off through the Housing Authority did you receive:
A Warranty Deed to your home? Yes No
An Abstract? Yes No
A base abstract? Yes No
A supplemental abstract? Yes No

C. MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOMES

- Have you applied for assistance through this program? Yes No
- If yes, are you currently on the waiting list? Yes No
- Has Housing made any repairs to your home through this program? Yes No
- Was there ever a determination made that it would cost too much to rehab your home? Yes No
If yes, were you furnished a trailer or a manufactured home? Yes No
- If a determination was made that it was not feasible to rehab your home or furnish you with a trailer or manufactured home at the location you now live, would you consider moving? Yes No
- If yes, how far would you be willing to move?
10 mi 11-20 mi 21-30 mi 31-40 mi
- Are you interested in renting an apartment? Yes No

Please return this survey to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division, ATTN: Thomasene Osborn, PO Box 297, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

- Are you interested in buying a house? Yes No
- Where would you prefer to live?
In the country In town
- Are you able to provide upkeep on a home? (maintenance inside and out)
Yes No

D. GENERAL HOUSING QUESTIONS

Do you think that at least one apartment or housing unit should be set aside in your community to be used as temporary housing for citizens who face a natural disaster such as fire, flood, tornado, etc. Yes No

Do you think housing personnel should provide counseling on what to do in case of a fire or any other disaster? Yes No

Do you think each home that Housing builds or buys should have a safe room or cellar? Yes No

Do you think an assisted living or nursing home facility owned and operated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is needed in your community? Yes No

TRANSPORTATION

- Do you have dependable transportation to apply for services the Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers? Yes No
- If employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation were to come to your local Indian Community Center and provide a "workshop" on services offered, would you attend? Yes No
- Have you used the Muscogee (Creek) Nation transit bus system? Yes No
- If yes, where has it taken you?
Work Okmulgee Complex
Clinic Other

GENERAL INFORMATION

Have you subscribed to the monthly Muscogee Nation News? Yes No

How do you find out about the services Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers?

Monthly newspaper
National Council Representative
Family/Relatives
Community Center
Word of mouth

Second

continued from page 2

and not that of their Highnesses, or ours, nor of these cavaliers who come with us. And that we have said this to you and made this requisition, we request the notary here present to give us his testimony in writing, and we ask the rest who are present that they should be witnesses of this requisition.

The historian and apostle to the Indians, Bartolome de las Casas, on reading the Requerimiento could not decide whether to laugh or weep. Even the author of the Requerimiento had to laugh when told by the historian Oviedo of the difficulty of finding any Indians to whom to read the document on one expedition. The validity of Spanish actions in the New World was questioned as early as 1511 by Friar Antonio de Montesinos in a fiery sermon in Hispaniola. The King, as a result, called a conference to hear arguments on the question. Two royal preachers, Bernardo de Mesa and the Licentiate Gregorio, advocated some kind of servitude for the Indians' own well being. The resulting Laws of Burgos (1512) effected a compromise. The Indians were declared to have a right to freedom and humane treatment, but were to be subject to coercion and were to be kept close to the Spaniards in or-

der to facilitate conversion. The encomienda system, by which Indians as well as their lands were placed in the hands of Spanish conquerors, was approved "in view of the Apostolic Grace and Donation and in agreement with divine and human law".

TO BE CONTINUED IN JANUARY ISSUE

Council

continued from page 3

school clothing assistance program, - sponsor: **Lena Wind**; co-sponsor: **Ron Cleghorn** and **Paula Willits** (\$225,400.00);
• approved (17-3-0) NCA 05-257, amending NCA 03-153 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to be placed into a restricted account by Muscogee

Nation Business Enterprise for purpose of procuring an irrevocable letter of credit to secure construction bonding) - sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$700,000.00);

voting no were: **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

• approved (18-2-0) NCA 05-258, appropriating funds for the construction of a new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Justice Building; sponsor: **Sue Johnson**; co-sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$1,000,000.00); voting no were: **McIntosh**, McIntosh;

Fields, Tukvpytce;

November 15, Emergency session

Absent were: **George Tiger**, Creek

excused; **Roger Barnett**, Creek excused; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh will be late; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee excused; **Sue Johnson**, Muskogee excused; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee excused; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee excused; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee excused; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee excused; **Lola Fields**, Tukvpytce excused; **Cherrah Ridge Quitt**, Tulsa excused;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpytce

District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business:

• approved (11-3-0) NCA 05-262, authorizing a special appropriation to allow the muscogee (Creek) choir to attend the First People's celebration Intertribal gathering from November 18-20, 2005 in Dothan, Alabama - sponsor: **Sandra Parish** (\$1,000.00); voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Willits**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner.

Nettv Cako Rakko Safvckety



Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Tobacco Prevention Program
116 N. Grand ~ Okmulgee, OK 74447
pho: 918.756.6231 ~ fax: 918.759.2086

reach Suzie Joki at: e-mail:communications@muscogeenation-nsn.gov phone: (918) 732-7645

Yeager Head Start celebrates November Fest

YEAGER — NovemberFest was celebrated with a short program by the Yeager Head Start children. Many head start parents, community leaders, and Creek Nation National Council members joined the staff and children for a Thanksgiving dinner enjoyed by all.

During the month of November, the children were fascinated with Veteran Rufus Scott. Scott came to the center to talk with the children about Veteran's Day and what it represents. The children had many questions about the Military career and were curious about his medals and military attire. He took time out from his day to spend it with the children and also to take a few pictures.



For the month of December, the children will be Christmas Caroling at the Tribal Towns and nutrition sites in Wetumka and Holdenville. The Yeager Head Start Center would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Free College Course Available for Citizens

WETUMKA — Haskell Indian Nations University is entering into its second semester of on-line classes offered to Muscogee Nation tribal members. The on-line program has proven to benefit many Natives in rural America. Through a cooperative agreement with Wes Watkins Technology Center, located in Wetumka, the pilot program offers several college accredited courses to enrolled tribal members.

It is now time for spring pre-enrollment and there are limited spaces available. The Muscogee Nation National Council approved funding for two semesters of on-line courses the fall semester included Muscogee Language I, American Indian Poetry, Introduction and Intermediate Algebra, American History and English I. The following is a tentative schedule of courses for the spring semester:

- PHILOSOPHY IN AM. INDIAN LITERATURE (DE) M & W 11:10- 12:25
- BUSINESS/TECH WRITING—BLACKBOARD (Correspondence only)
- GRAMMAR/COMPOSITION TBA
- INTRO TO ALGEBRA (DE) M W & F 1:10-2:00
- INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (DE) T & TH 11:15-12:30
- INTRO SOCIOLOGY (DE) T/TH 9:45-11:00

Muscogee Language II (must pass Muscogee I to take this course)

More courses may be available soon. Contact Nathan Anderson with any questions. The deadline for online enrollment is Dec. 23. The applications can be obtained by calling the admissions office and requesting a packet by mail, online at the university website, or the receptionist desk at Wes Watkins Technology Center.

For information about Haskell Indian Nations University, contact Nathan Anderson at (785) 832-6679 or the Haskell website at: www.haskell.edu.

Eufaula Dormitory awarded BIA Facilities Grant

EUFULA — The Creek Nation-Eufaula Dormitory has recently received a federal grant in the amount of \$334,016 for facilities improvement and repair. The grant includes the funding for 13 projects, which includes the installation of a new gym floor, lighting for the baseball/ softball field and security fencing for the areas West and South of campus.

"These are projects we have been working on for about two years," stated Eufaula Dormitory Superintendent Greg Anderson. "We have met with the BIA officials in Albuquerque numerous times and submitted proposals and justifications. We are very pleased with this grant award. It will allow us to continue to upgrade and improve our facility to better serve our students. A special thanks must go to our facilities management staff at Eastern Oklahoma Tribal Schools in Edmond. They have provided technical support and assistance throughout the process and this wouldn't have been successful without them."

The construction for the project is expected to begin in early 2006 with completion expected in Fall 2006.

Johnson-O'Malley to hold Annual Art Competition

OKMULGEE — Judging for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson-O'Malley annual art competition will be held on Dec. 15. After judging, the art work will be displayed the same day in the Human Development Conference room from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to come see the art.

Each year the art competition is opened to Muscogee Creek Nation JOM students. The purpose for the competition is to give our JOM students the opportunity to create the art work for the Annual Joint-Tribes JOM Conference held each spring. The winning design will be used on the program covers and t-shirts for that year. This year's theme is "A Native Children Learning Blocks...JOM" which uses the No Child Left Behind acronym.

The competition is twofold. The first phase is for Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM students where four winners will be chosen. Those four winners will proceed to the next and final competition where their art work will compete with other tribal winners from JOM programs throughout the state. The winner of the State competition will be honored by having their art work used as the logo for the 2006 Oklahoma JOM Conference. Also, monetary gifts will be given to first, second, and third place winners and a reception given on the first night of the conference.

"We are proud of our JOM students as they have displayed great creative abilities and some have submitted winning art pieces," said Jeri Brandon, JOM Program Assistant.

College of the Muscogee Nation OSU-Okmulgee Spring 2006 Class Schedule

Enrollment: Now thru January 3, 2006 Priority Enrollment Dates: December 8-9 or 12-13, 2005. Contact Paula Blair at OSU- Okmulgee Admissions/ Records Office at (918) 293-4828. Donald W. Reynolds Technology Center. Classes start January 4, 2006.

MVSK 1123- Beginning Creek Language

MON/WEDS 4:00-5:30PM HET-103 BARNETT, Jackson

In this class, students will learn basic phrases, expressions, methods of communication in the Creek language. Beginning level conversational proficiency will be emphasized.

MVSK 1133- Intermediate Creek Language

MON/WEDS 4:00-5:30PM HET-107 COLBERT, Millie

This class will be a continuation of the Beginning Creek Language with an additional focus on reading, writing and comprehending the language. Activities will emphasize Creek language interaction among students for achieving a higher level of conversational proficiency. Prerequisite: MVSK 1123 or permission of Instructor.

MVSK 2013-Advanced Creek Language

TUES/THURS 4:00-5:30PM HET-103 MC NAC, Amos

This course is designed to give students intensive practice at the advanced level in reading, writing and speaking the Muscogee language. Listening and speaking skills will be emphasized in class. Students will write a series of brief compositions and focus on developing new vocabulary. Students will participate in simulated conversations using the Muscogee language. Prerequisite: MVSK 1133 or permission of Instructor.

MVSK 1153-Native American Art

TUES/THURS 4:00-5:30PM HET-107 WILSON, Sandy

This course will focus on an introduction to Native American art forms of the region including a review of artistic practices that make up the diversity of Native American artists. Use of materials, artistic traditions, cultural significance, and regional and tribal styles will be explored.

MVSK 1223-Personal Trainer Certification

TUES/THURS 5:30-7:00PM EGT-8 BUNNER, Angela

This course will introduce students to the concept of activity, fitness and health. It will serve as preparation to students who are interested in becoming personal trainers*. Students will learn how to properly screen for safe participation in an exercise program and design exercise prescriptions for multiple populations. Hands-on lab activities will include flexibility activities, proper biomechanical performances, and muscular strength and endurance. *Eligibility for Personal Training Certification is provided through the National Council on Strength and Fitness, Board for Certification.

MVSK 2111- American Indian Leadership

MTWRF TBA EGT-8 COSER, Dr. Pete

The seminar focuses on historical, theoretical, and cultural aspects of American Indian leadership. Students seeking to have a better understanding of American Indian leader behaviors will be given the opportunity to participate in group leadership experiential exercises. Students will also be provided an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. This is the premier course leading into the series of Tribal Excellence Seminars offered through the College of the Muscogee Nation. Due to the nature of the course enrollment is limited to 15.

MVSK1141-Seminar: Reporting for Tribal Newspapers

MTWRF TBA TBA ARKEKETA, Susan

This seminar teaches students the basics of reporting and writing for tribal newspapers. The Associated Style Book will be used to prepare students for newspaper writing.

MVSK 2311- Seminar: The Powers of Tribal Self-Government

MTWRF TBA TBA WILSON, Jerry

This seminar looks at Treaties and Sovereignty issues of Tribal Government, and will discuss a selected Tribal Constitution focusing on executive, legislative and judicial areas of government.

PSYC 1113-CMN Intro. Psychology

MWF 12:00-1:00 TBA

This is an introductory course which presents the principles, theories, vocabulary and applications of the science of psychology. Heredity and environment, development of personality, behavior, learning applications and life span development are discussed. Theory.

OSU-Okmulgee City: Enrollment open: Now through January 16, 2006. Priority Enrollment dates: January 12, 2006 Contact Diana Blackwell at The College of the Muscogee Nation Office, 918-293-5464, Science and Technology Building/OSU- Okmulgee. Classes start January 17, 2006

PLSC 2223-Tribal Court System

THURS 7:30-10:30AM **MNHD-CONF TBA
TUES/THURS 5:00-6:30PM **MNHD-CONF MOORE, Patrick

This course will focus on the nature and scope of Indian law including the legal framework of the government-to-government relationship between tribal, federal and state governments. A historical overview of federal Indian relations and policy will be provided, including basic doctrines of federal Indian law.

** MNHD-Muscogee Nation Human Development Building



A "Trail of Joy" instead of a "Trail of Tears!"



Creek man creates sports documentary



Creek athlete runs New York City Marathon



Section B, Page 1

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

December 2005

A Memory of a Christmas Past by Joyce Bear

As I was out fighting the traffic and running around at the mall trying to find that very special toy for my grandchildren, I remembered "Christmas" back when I was a child. How much simpler it was then.

There were no malls to go shopping in those days. It was just after the war. The "big one". "The war to end all wars." The big "WWII".

Our family lived on a farm just a mile south of Coweta, which was my grandmother's allotment. Daddy was a carpenter by trade and mother stayed at home, cooking, cleaning, and made sure our children stayed in school. Education was very important to my parents, because both had never finished high school.

Money was always kind of scarce especially during the winter months because carpentry work is seasonal. If it rained, Daddy couldn't get many hours in so that meant his paycheck was kind of slim.

During the summer Mother always had a vegetable garden and Daddy would put in a truck patch in the field. We had a nice orchard of peach and apple trees so mother always had plenty to can for the winter.

My older sister and brothers would raise chickens every spring. The way they always seem to get the chicks was by buying freight. The last train coming through Coweta was about 10:00 p.m. Many times the train station agent would call mother and say, "I have some baby chicks that just came in on the train and they will not last till morning". The hatcheries would ship day old chicks out by train, and the customer had to be at the train station to pick them up when they arrived. Our house was only about a mile and a half from the train station. So, mother would get into her egg and cream money, and send my older brother to the train station to get the baby chicks. The baby chicks made a good 4-H project for my brother and sister. We had three milk cows and several head of hogs. Dad would butcher two hogs every fall. We always had plenty to eat and many times gave away fruit and vegetables to other

families in our community.

Our social and community life was centered on the "Church". Mother was a Methodist and Daddy was a Baptist. So, our children were exposed to both denominations.

Just before Christmas, the church where we attended would have a Christmas Nativity play with all the children in the congregation participating. Some of us had a little "piece" to say, some sang in the choir, or some were in the nativity scene.

I was always fascinated by the costumes. Someone's old bath robe served very nice for the "Wisemen" with a striped towel wrapped around their heads that had been obtained from a box of soap that one of our mother's had purchased.

The "Shepherd's" were dressed in old burlap bags with a hole cut out at the bottom and sides to put their heads and arms through. One time there was printing on the back of a Shepherd that said, "Idaho Potatoes". The "Angel" was always dressed in a white choir robe with Christmas garland on the edge of her wings. I could never figure out how the wings were attached to her costume. "Mary" was always so beautiful sitting there on stage as she lovingly looked at her little doll in the manger. "Joseph" usually played by one of the older teenagers looked like a warrior as he faithfully stood guard over the baby Jesus.

When we arrived at the church there would be a Christmas tree that went all the way to the ceiling all decorated with colored lights, and other colorful ornaments. There was also men's brown work gloves, socks, white handkerchief and colorful ladies handkerchiefs, potholders, hanging or draped on the tree. Most of us children could hardly wait for the nativity play to be over because we wanted to see "Santa Clause".

After the play was over the pastor would ask the children to come up to the front of the church and sing "Jingle Bells" or "Santa" would not come.

As we were singing, I remember hearing something that sounded more like a "cow bell" instead of "sleigh bells" ringing from outside the church. In fact, it sounded like

old "Bossy", our old milk cow's bell.

Pretty soon, we heard banging on the side of the church and a "HO, HO, HO," and then some little kids would get scared and start to cry when Santa made his grand entry. Santa would be dressed in his bright red suit trimmed in white. He had a long white beard that looked fluffy and soft. I noticed he also had on brown work gloves and I asked my mother if he was the real Santa. Mother said he was probably one of Santa's helpers since he is so busy this time of the year.

Sometimes Santa would play some jokes on people in the congregation. Once, Santa held up a beautiful red apple and said he had more in his sack. Santa said, all boys who wanted a nice big red apple to come up to the front and form a line around him. Of course the boys ran forward to receive their apples. Santa said, turn out the lights and I will pour the apples out on the floor and the boys will have to find them in the dark. So, the lights were turned out and you could hear the boys bumping and banging on the floor trying to find the apples. When Santa said to turn the lights back on, the boys found out they were not gathering nice big red apples but were gathering brown potatoes. My

brother was one of the boys that night, and he said when he was crawling around on the floor he found one that was kind of oblong so he tossed it aside.

Everyone who attended received a gift even though they were visitors and had never attended the church. The gift may have been handkerchiefs from the tree but they didn't go away empty handed. Everyone also received a brown sack with an apple, orange, English walnuts and ribbon candy.

I discovered years later that I was correct about hearing old Bossy's cowbell that night long ago. While digging in a back closet, I found the old Santa suit and realized that Santa's helper really was my Dad.

I think now about our communities in the Muscogee Nation. Some still have those little nativity plays presented by the children and give out brown sacks of candy and fruit. We continue to show love and compassion for one another. We still hold the most important tradition of our Muscogee people. The tradition of sharing. And like the elders tell us, "it is always best to share even though we may have very little."

Have a Merry and Safe Christmas from the Culture Preservation Office.

Stompdancers perform in Annual Powwow

ATMORE, Ala. — The 35th Annual

Poarch

Creek

Thanksgiving

and Inter-

tribal Pow-

wow drew a

very large

crowd this

year. Host

Drum Group

was Medi-

cine Trail and

Stompdancing

was per-

formed by

Tallahassee

Wykokaye

Heles hayv

Sam Proctor and his group.

On Saturday evening, the Poarch

Creeks gathered at Mekko Slick Linam's

home, for a

special

Stompdance.

At their re-

quest, Speedy,

a full-blood

Creek citizen,

led his very

unique Stompdance

blues song for Mekko.

He said,

"It's an

honoring song

and dance

for him."

Afterwards, a reception was held and

more stompdancing by the Poarch Creeks.



Pictured (left to right): back row, Ben Andrew, Jeff Frye, Kevin Waters, Speedy Harley and Christopher Blackburn. Front row, Ricky Smith, Paul Bell, William Bailey, Mekko Slick Linam and Henneha.

Native American History Series: Tisquantum's Contribution to Democracy by Judge Patrick E. Moore

Soon after Tisquantum's meeting and greeting the Pilgrims in the spring of 1621 he arranged for them to meet with the powerful Pokanoket Sachem Massasoit.

Massasoit invited the Pilgrims to join the local Native American Confederacy that had been in existence for eons. The Pilgrims realizing the advantage to this arrangement quickly accepted and became the first Englishmen to be involved in and experience the politics of a Confederacy. The Pilgrims in this unique position were able to observe the manner and methods employed by the Native Americans in the management and government of their towns, tribes and the Confederacy in general.

Why would Tisquantum be interested in befriending the Pilgrims for Europeans had kidnapped him, taken him to Europe, and sold him into slavery. The answer lies again in the Native American way of adopting strangers into a tribe for the purpose of increasing tribal population after a war or plague. Tisquantum was the sole survivor

of his town, Pawtuxet, and thought in his native way that the Pilgrims had arrived to repopulate his home village.

The Native Americans divided land according to families and family ownership of land was the common practice. The Pilgrims had only been exposed to the European land ownership scheme of feudal manors.

Roger Williams said of the Narraganset Tribe that they refer to the land as "My land," and they are very exact in the boundaries defining their land using rivers, streams or prominent landmarks. He even reported observing them bargain for and sell their lands amongst each other.

Initially the Pilgrims intended to work the land in common and had so stated in their laws written on board the Mayflower. They agreed to this communal land ownership before they left the Mayflower to come ashore.

However, after observing Pokanoket Council Meetings and the methods of land ownership employed by the Native Americans coupled with the great success resulting from such family ownership their leader Governor Bradford decided to call the first ever English town meeting in North America.

This first town meeting in North America by Europeans was to be concerned with a new concept for the colonists "the politics of families owning land," and the meeting was held during the summer months of 1622. Pawtuxet became the location of the

European town named Plymouth. Plymouth soon had family owned private lands or plats that closely resembled the Native American ownership scheme.

In 1624 Governor Bradford called an election to expand his authority and add additional members to the town council. Many of the original landowners did not approve of this new town government and moved to new areas and established their own towns, but they kept the family land ownership system. By 1628 there were six towns in Massachusetts using the family land tenure system.

The Massachusetts General Court legally approved a New Town Ordinance in 1635 for the regulating of towns in Massachusetts. The ordinance provided for 12 council members elected to a term of one year.

Town members were summoned to the town meeting by the "beating of the drum" and used corn or beans as their Indian neighbors did to count votes. They elected officials and appointed committees who had no real authority, since the electorate retained the real authority to make decisions at town meetings in much the same manner as their Native American neighbors. Town meetings occurred when the land owners needed to deliberate upon a matter concerning everyone and the town council was made up of all the people sitting and voting as required.

This town council activity was the very beginning of democracy for the colonists even though Native Americans had been using

this form of government for thousands of years.

The Plymouth Colony was the first English colony to adopt family land ownership, but there was a very important difference between the colonist's and Native American's method of land ownership. Plymouth Colony men were the land owners, which was consistent with European gender inequality. The Wampanoags and other eastern Native American governments divided the land among families matrilineally and females owned the land thereby creating a gender equality unique to Native American democracy.

Democracy began for Europeans in America with the Pilgrim's Plymouth town meetings, patterned after the town councils of their Native American neighbors, and these colonists took the first steps toward a representative form of government that was finally realized when the Bill of Rights and United States Constitution was ratified in 1791. The impact of Tisquantum, the lonely Wampanoag Indian who wanted to repopulate his hometown, has been felt in this hemisphere and World wide since 1791 through the involvement of the United States of America in foreign affairs. Today we honor people with holidays in their name for participating in events that do not come close to the contributions Tisquantum made to mankind. By the way Tisquantum is also known as Squanto.

Elderly living

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

December 2005

A message from the Senior Service Manager A successful trip to Washington D.C.

Thursday morning, Dec. 1, 2005 three drivers and twelve seniors departed Creek Complex at 8:30 a.m. heading for our Nation's Capitol, Washington D.C. our main objective was to visit the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. The pastor of Newtown Church, June Thomas, cared enough to arise early to come to the complex to see us off with a prayer and encouragement. We were among the ones that did not get to go for the museum opening last September. We stopped in Checotah to pick up one passenger and were on our way.

Our first night's stay was in Nashville, Tennessee. I thought maybe some of our seniors may want to try for a singing contract while in Nashville, but they did not.

While traveling through Tennessee, I had an experience that maybe was typical of the people of that state. We had stopped for rest and fuel in a small town some where. I wanted to make a last minute run to the bathroom before boarding the van. One bathroom was locked from the inside, so I tried another next door and it was locked also. I waited for ten minutes for both bathrooms to empty but to no avail. So I went ahead and left without using the bathroom. Perhaps they go to the bathroom differently than I do. Maybe they take more time because they are enjoying it so much.

We left Nashville early the next morning bound for our next stop, Richmond, Virginia. We arrived approximately six o'clock in the afternoon on Friday. We had a good dinner and rest. We wanted to be ready for the final leg into Washington, D.C. we arrived at the museum about 10:30 and to my

surprise found parking for both vans.

After going through security checks and searches, we finally entered the American Indian Museum. The building itself is very impressive, unlike any other we had ever seen. It is four levels high with exhibits on every floor. There is much to see, but unfortunately, the Myskoke Exhibit has very little to offer.

We were taken on a tour of the museum by a half Creek employee, Edwin Shupman. The tour lasted about an hour which we enjoyed. Afterwards one of us in the group was approached by someone requesting that we perform. I replied that we do not dance but we could sing for the visitors. So about 3:45 an announcement was made throughout the museum. At four as we were lining up on some stairs, people began filling up the area in front of us. The whole first floor area was filled with people. I was told later that the second, third and fourth floor balconies at the guard rails were filled also. I led our group with our song, "Hellvluuyh". Then Frank Harjo, one of my drivers, led another Creek hymn. We were received very warmly. Many people talked with us afterwards and expressed their appreciation. While we sang, I looked at more cameras than I had ever seen anywhere outside a camera shop. I was later approached with a request that sometime in the future, if I could provide dancers to visit the museum. That is something to keep in mind and work on.

Sunday morning after breakfast at the nearby McDonalds, we headed out to visit Arlington Cemetery. After parking the vans and making our way toward the reception building, our group saw something that, in talking with employees later, had never happened there before. An eagle came and circled over us about three times then went away. We felt good after that. I believe we were being looked after.

We boarded tour buses to go

through the cemetery with stops at the more popular places. To name a few, the burial site of former attorney general of the United States, Robert F. Kennedy. A simple wooden cross marks his grave, which was his request. Next the grave of the most decorated U.S. Soldier in World War II, Audie Murphy. It is a grave and a headstone no different than the others all around. The next stop was to me the most meaningful, the grave of President John F. Kennedy. Next to the President lies his wife, Jackie Kennedy, and two children lost in childhood. At the head of the grave is the eternal flame that burns 24 hours a day. I myself paused at the grave a good long time. President Kennedy and I have something in common, we both served in the United States Navy. I could not leave until I gave my President and commander-in-Chief a U.S. Navy Salute.

We watched the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier at high noon. Very impressive ceremony, with everything all spit and polish. We were ordered to stand and remain silent throughout the ceremony. The inscription on the tomb has these words: "Here lies in honored glory a soldier known only to God." Very moving experience that one cannot forget.

In the afternoon, the others in our group wanted to visit other sites around the D.C. area. I myself wanted to return to the museum and attend a language seminar, which I did. They dropped me off and went on. After the seminar, my son and daughter-in-law arrived and we toured the museum again and shopped for souvenirs. We all met up again back at the hotel then went out to dinner.

I told the group I wanted to leave the next morning early. We were all ready and we departed Washington, D.C. at 7:00 Monday morning. We hit snow somewhere in Virginia which lasted about three hours. Once through that we were all right. We arrived in Knoxville, Tennessee about Dark, checked into our rooms and were to meet in the lobby to go to dinner. Some of the group were mentioning how high

the motel beds were. Some thought they might have to use the van step stool to climb into bed. Others recommended making a run from their door to try to get up into bed. I guess we all managed ok as there were no complaints the next morning.

We left Knoxville at seven the next morning, Tuesday, bound for Little Rock, Arkansas. Just as we neared Little Rock, excitement went up as we saw our first Wal-Mart that we hadn't seen for some days. We arrived around 5 o'clock in the afternoon and got settled in. Everything went well and Wednesday morning we were on our way home.

Somewhere on the way, I guess we realized we had been away from home six days. Perhaps we were almost home. We sang creek songs. I myself felt good afterwards.

We arrived in Checotah about 12:00 noon. Not having had breakfast, we were ready for lunch. Once we left there and we made it on in early afternoon.

For the successful and safe trip to Washington, D.C. I wish to mention a few things. First I am thankful for the opportunity afforded me to make trips with our senior citizens. I'm thankful to Bill Jones and Frank Harjo for sharing the driving duties. Thanks to the senior citizens who went for their well mannered conduct throughout the trip. Also for my youngest son and daughter-in-law, who having lived in the area for some years, served as our guides and took us around. I thank the Creek Nation for allowing me to work for our tribe. I thank Chief, A.D. Ellis and Second Chief, Alfred Berryhill for their support for the senior services program and our taking such trips. I thank the Creek Nation Council, who did not hesitate to approve and purchase two vans for the program and the funding to run the program.

I am thankful we had a safe and successful journey. I realize I have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. Until next time, MVTO and sincerely,



AARP NEWS

Dates to remember

NICOA's objectives are as follows:

- 1) Enhance communications and cooperation with community service providers and other aging organizations that represent and advocate for Native American Elders.
- 2) Provide information and technical assistance for Native American communities to improve health care for Elders.
- 3) Network with appropriate agencies to maximize resources, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service delivery systems for Elders.
- 4) Provide information, reports and expert testimony requested by Tribal Nation and the U.S. Congress.
- 5) Provide a clearinghouse for information on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.

The National Indian Council on Aging has provided several dates to remember for the year of 2006.

- Jan. 1, 2006: Coverage starts if the elder joined a prescription drug plan by Dec. 31, 2005.
- May 15, 2006: Remember to join by this date or the Elder may have to wait until November 15, 2006, to join a prescription drug plan.

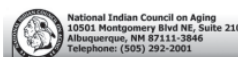
Senior Citizens Christmas Party for those living near the Southern Creek border

SEMINOLE — There will be a Christmas Party held Dec. 17 at the Indian Nations Baptist Church beginning at 12 p.m. The church is located on Second and Evans Street.

This will be a time for Muscogee Creek Senior Citizens living near the Southern Creek border to get together and celebrate Christmas and have a time of food and fellowship.

This event is sponsored by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Program.

For more information contact Jackson Barnett (918) 732-7723.



The Veterans Day DVD is available for only \$10 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department. For ordering information contact Joshua Slane at 918-732-7638 or e-mail jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

New Traditions Clinic



Mariah Lee (Muscogee Creek) 2121 S. 125th East Ave., CEO/Owner Suite 103
Located inside TK Wolf Tulsa, OK 74129
and Associates Building (918) 439-9060

Church Activities

CHRISTMAS

Hillabee Church

HANNA — Hillabee Church will be having their Christmas program on Dec. 17 beginning at 6 p.m. Come and join us in celebration and enjoy chili and stew afterwards.

For more information, contact Johnny Murray at (918) 657-2275 or Sally Wise at (918) 657-2280.

Arbeka Indian Baptist Church

HENRYETTA — Arbeka Indian Baptist Church will be having their Christmas program on Dec. 18 with activities to start at 6 p.m.

The Christmas Sermon will be delivered by Pastor Rev. Marvin Lowe followed by a nativity program representing the birth of Christ being conducted by Jenna Leitka and Erin Phillips. A sack of candy and fruits will be given to all who attend. Everyone is welcome.

The church is located, four miles southwest of Henryetta on Bryant Road, one mile south and one mile east.

Yeager Methodist Church

YEAGER — Yeager Methodist Church will have their Christmas Program on Dec. 23 beginning at 7 p.m. There will be candy, gifts, food & Santa. Everyone welcome. The Pastor is Rev. David Dunson.

Thewarley Methodist Church

DUSTIN — Thewarley Methodist Church will have their Christmas Program on Dec. 24 beginning at 5 p.m. There will be candy, gifts, food & Santa. Everyone welcome. The Pastor is Rev. David Dunson.

Concharty Methodist Church

BIXBY — Concharty Methodist Church will be having their Christmas program on Dec. 24 beginning at 7 p.m.

Grave Creek Baptist Church

HITCHITA — Grave Creek Baptist Church will be having their Christmas program on Dec. 25. Morning services will begin at 11 a.m. and the Christmas program will start at 7 p.m.

For ride or directions to church, call (918) 752-0980.

Tallahassee Methodist Church

OKMULGEE — Tallahassee Methodist Church will be having their Christmas program on Dec. 25 with the program after dinner.

Church Activities

NEW YEAR'S EVE

First Indian Baptist Church

MUSKOGEE — First Indian Baptist Church will be having a gospel singing Dec. 31 on New Year's Eve from 7 p.m. until midnight.

The emcee will be Curtis Kinney and Herb Billy. Concessions will be available.

The church is located at 510 South Ninth Street.

Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church

HENRYETTA — Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church will be having a New Year's Eve singing on Dec. 31 beginning at 7:30 p.m. until midnight. If there are any speakers remaining at midnight, services will continue.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Church Opportunities

Church seeks Pastor

HAYDENVILLE — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Montesoma is a small, rural, caring fellowship which is affiliated with the Muskogee, Seminole and Wichita Indian Baptist Association.

They are primarily Mvskokvlke and although a Creek Pastor is preferred, all resumes are welcomed by the Pulpit Committee. Mail resumes to Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 292, Okemah, Oklahoma, 74859 or call (918) 623-9126.

The church is located 14 miles north of Okemah.

Pastor's Corner

Wesley Berry, Crosstown Church
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Wow, what a week we encountered last week! Have you ever experienced a sudden change like we experienced Sunday, November 27th? I don't ever remember, Oklahoma having HURRICANES, but it sure felt like it with 60 m.p.h. winds. I cannot begin to fathom the thought of 100 m.p.h. winds, that our neighbors to the south encountered this summer.

In writing this article, I'm reminded of my own family's experience that Sunday night. The wind blew so hard that it caused the power lines to touch together, causing sparks to fall to the ground setting the grass on fire. We were afraid the fire was going to burn our house down, scrambling around trying to think what to do and how to prevent it, everything just became a blur. It's amazing, what we deem important, when we're fearful of losing everything. You see, we weren't prepared for this to happen, we didn't have time to think, rationally. My only suggestion to my family was to gather up only those irreplaceable things. You'd be surprised what that list would consist of and how different it would be from family to family, person to person.

The word **irreplaceable** is the key. For something to be irreplaceable, Webster's Dictionary defines it as something that cannot be replaced or in essence it means, *it's something you wouldn't want to live life without*. It is something that you cherish or value immensely. The Bible says in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The most valuable thing in your life is always the closest to your heart. Your heart is the seat of your emotions and your emotions is the driving force behind your existence. Whatever a person is passionate about, that is, a sure sign of where they have hid their treasure.

Over the years I've been a big fan of the Indiana Jones movies, starring Harrison Ford. Every movie would begin with Indiana Jones piecing together a map or studying the clues, for the purpose of finding hidden treasure. Wasn't it amazing, to what extent they would go to hide their treasures?

Let's go on a treasure hunt today. What are the clues in your life that will lead us to your most sacred possession? What can you not live without? Your family, your spouse, your appetite for success, or maybe it is your addiction. Do you even realize what you've sacrificed for the sake of concealing your treasure? Let me ask you the most important question of your life, "Have you mastered your treasure or has your treasure mastered you?" The reason I'm asking you this is, all I ever remember in those movies, once the hidden treasure is found, were the skeletal remains of the previous owners. I want to ask you this question again, "**Have you mastered your treasure or has your treasure mastered you?**" You see, my friend your treasure isn't as loyal to you as you are to it. It has no problem changing ownership or lovers, especially after it uses you up and you have nothing left to offer it.

Several years ago, I was working in Henryetta, Oklahoma for P&K Coal Mine. This particular time I was working in the coal yard at the washer plant and had my first encounter with fools' gold. I can honestly tell you that for an eternity of a moment I knew what it felt like to be **WEALTHY ABOVE IMAGINATION!!!!** This particular morning I was told to go behind the plant and clean out from underneath the conveyor belt but to my surprise, when I walked around the corner of the plant, the pile of fine coal was completely saturated with **GOLD, FOOL'S GOLD!** I couldn't tell my crew fast enough and they couldn't stop laughing long enough, to tell me that what I thought was extremely valuable was in reality, worthless. I still laugh to this day thinking about it.

Listen someone at this very moment is reading this article and you're in a similar situation. What you view as extremely valuable is in reality, worthless. The very thing you treasure is in reality sinking sand and it's about to devour you. But, I've got good news for you, Matthew 13:45-46 says, "Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls. Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." The meaning of this scripture, is when you have truly found the pearl of great price, Jesus, nothing compares in value and nothing is to be treasured more than him. Truly he is the only irreplaceable thing in our lives.

Oh by the way, let me share with you Matthew's version of Luke 12:34, Matthew 6:19-21, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. It doesn't matter what you face in this life, storms or crisis, circumstances or situations, nothing can or will separate you from him. Listen to what Romans 8:38-39 says, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Not only is he our treasure, but we're also his treasure, because he paid the ultimate price for us. Even though, sin and unrighteousness had made us worthless. But just remember, "**Another man's junk is another man's treasure!**"

A "Trail of Joy" instead of a "Trail of Tears!"

TULSA — On Sunday, November 13, 2005, became a Landmark Day for Christian Native Americans and visitors joyfully celebrating November as Native American Indian Heritage Month. Nearly two hundred individuals gathered together for a time of spiritual and emotional healing through forgiveness between Black, White, and Native Americans. At least sixteen Indian tribes were represented at Christ The King CitiChurch (CTK).

After a time of praise and worship led by CTK, welcome and opening remarks by Apostle Tammy Chism and Peggy Seals, Missions Department, at CTK, all Native Americans attending, were acknowledged and honored by the congregation by having the individuals stand and be recognized. Native American Missions leader, Pat Kaseca, gave a brief historical account of why Native American Month is celebrated.

As most Oklahomans know, many offenses were committed toward Indian people in the breaking of over 400 treaties in the U.S. Nearly every tribe had a "Trail of Tears," and thousands of Native people died before arriving in Indian Territory. The breaking of government treaties damaged Native people emotionally, and the devastating effects

are still evident today. However, tribes also have a responsibility to release forgiveness to one another where there has been a dishonoring among the tribes.

Through the ministry of CTK Leadership and Missions Department, gospel-singing group Native Praise, singers Mica and Sha-na-ka Brown, and Morning Star Fellowship in Sapulpa, Pastor Allan and Betty Pulver, as well as Louise Deere's historical and Christian account of the "Trail of Tears," the presentation ended with a prayer of forgiveness by the congregation to break down cultural and denominational barriers.

After the presentations, a time of fellowship continued in the gym with a Thanksgiving meal of sweet corn soup, fry bread, ice tea, and cookies provided by Morning Star Fellowship. After the meal, there was a celebratory dance, or what came to be known as the dance on the "Trail of Joy."

Christ The King CitiChurch is located at 3160 E. 129th Avenue in east Tulsa, if one wants to know what is happening with Native American Missions. Missions Sunday is usually the last Sunday of the month, but call 918-664-9150 for specific times or visit the website at www.ctkcitychurch.org.



Guests are being served a traditional Indian dinner in the CTK Gymnasium in celebration of Native American Month.



Honoring Native American presenters: Allan and Betty Pulver, Louise Deere by Pat Kaseca, NAB leader for Native American Month.

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENTS

Josephine Marie Felix

OKMULGEE — Jessie Felix and Erika Harjo are proud to announce the birth of Josephine Marie Felix.

Felix was born Oct. 14. The proud grandparents are Rachael and Jerry Sumka of Henryetta and Sue Morgan of Henryetta, Ron Felix of Tulsa.

A baby shower for Josephine Felix was held at Grandma and Grandpa Sumka's house, Saturday, Nov. 12 by her aunts Delana, Kassey and Monique. Lunch and cake was served and enjoyed by a host of friends and relatives traveling from Shawnee, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Sapulpa. Also attending, "Special Guest", was the great-great (94 year old) Aunt of Josephine.



Tyla Ruth Bennett

OKMULGEE — Paula R. Mitchell and Ty R. Bennett are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Tyla Ruth Bennett. She was born May 18 at the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

Bennett weighed seven pounds and thirteen ounces and was 21 and 3/4 inches in length.

Maternal great-grandparents are Pauline Morgan and the late Dan E. Morgan and her paternal great grand parents are Mary Lois Plunkett and Marvin Gene Plunkett.

Maternal grandparents are Dinah Mitchell and Lonny Callaway and Dennis Mitchell, Paternal grandparents are Leona Combs and Tony Bennett. Her uncles are Victor Morgan, Dennis Mitchell Jr. Kevin Mitchell, Robert Cody Ankins.



Asaiah Jon Leybas

OKMULGEE — Asa Leybas and Meghan Bear are proud to announce the birth of their son Asaiah Jon Leybas Born at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital on July 7.

He weighed eight pounds and 12 ounces and was 21 and 1/2 inches long.

He is the grandson of Reverend Johnny and Nakina Leybas and Fred Bear and the late Rhonda Bear.

Paternal great grandparents are Alice Freeman and the Late Winford Taryole and the late Bennie and Lillian Leybas.

Maternal great grandparents are Clifford and Bertie Bear and Freddie Bear.



Zachary Scott Searcy

GLENPOOL — Zachary was born on Oct. 26 at the South Crest Hospital to the proud parents of Jeffery Allen Searcy and Nichell LeAnn Loftus of Glenpool.

Zachary weighed seven pounds and nine ounces and was 19 1/2 inches in length.

His paternal grandparents are Angela M. Searcy and Robert Eastin of Mounds and the late Jeffery Scott Searcy.

His great grandparents are Velva V. Stout of Glenpool and Harold L. Stout of Tulsa, B.J. Searcy of Glenpool and Darlene Eastin and the late Robert Eastin of Collinsville.

His great-great grandparents are Dorothy Morang and the late Alvin Okie (Shorty) Marang of Tulsa.

Zachary's maternal grandparents are Ronnie and Regina Jordan of Glenpool and his great grandparents are Lana Fuller and the late Larry Fuller of Sapulpa.

Zachary Scott belongs to the Turtle Clan (Luchapoga).

BIRTHDAYS

Jabaica Lee Tecumseh Jr. (Efullo)

OKMULGEE — Efullo celebrated his first birthday on November 16.

His birthday party theme was Spiderman, that he celebrated with friends and family.

Tecumseh is the son of Jabaica Lee Tecumseh Sr. and Narcissa Emma Hoof Tecumseh.

He is the grandson of Isabell Tecumseh Butler. His the great grandson of the late Isreal Tecumseh and the late Wisey Scott Tecumseh.



Josiah Allan Factor

HENRYETTA — Josiah Allan Factor turned four years old on November 26. A party was held at McDonalds in Henryetta and a family dinner and grandmothers, parents Daniel and Eli Factor of Okemah.

Maternal grandparents are Della Proctor of Okmulgee and maternal great-grandparents are the late Judy Lasley Proctor of Hanna and the late Rev. Austin and Mammie Barnett of Eufaula.

Paternal grandparents are Noah and Lucinda Factor of Okemah. Paternal grandparents are Wilson and Ina Hicks of Okemah. He is of the Deer Clan and is in Ms. Fallon and Mrs. Sommers Class at the Creek Nation Wilson Head Start and attends Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church. Factor has one sister Kaitlyn, eight years old, and two brothers Isaak and Kolby both three months.



Maddie Gouge

Henryetta — Maddie Sue Gouge celebrated her seventh birthday on December 3rd with her friend Raven Blackbear and family at the Build A Bear Store in Tulsa.

Maddie is the daughter of Thompson Geebon Gouge Jr. and Jenna Gouge.

Her maternal grandparents are Johnny Boyce of Tulsa and Karen Robertson of Beggs.

Great grandparents are Sylvia and Care Lee of Beggs. Maddie's paternal grandparents are the late Lutie Sue Gouge and Tom Gouge of Anadarko.



BIRTHDAYS

Takoma and Dakota Wagnor

Henryetta brothers celebrate their 11th and 5th birthdays.

HENRYETTA — Takoma Wagnor turned 11 on Nov. 6 and his brother Dakota Wagnor turned 5 on Nov. 26.

Takoma's birthday was celebrated at home with family and friends. Takoma and a few friends also went to Tulsa for Laser Tag and a movie.

Dakota's birthday was a Bat Man theme and was celebrated at Mazzio's with family and friends. Dakota went to Checotah for Bowling with friends.

Their parents are BJ and Melany Wagnor of Henryetta. They have one brother, Nathan, and two sisters, MiKayla and Alyssa.



MUSCOGEEPEOPLE

Harper and Dean receive National EMT awards

OKEMAH — Henry Harper received one of the National EMT Basic of the Year Awards this year. Harper resides in Holdenville. He has worked at the Creek Nation EMS for two years. He maintains the ambulance fleet insuring preventive maintenance is done regularly. Without his supervision, the ambulance fleet would not operate properly. Harper has been a Basic EMT for about two years and received his training at Wes Watkins Votch.

Jeff Dean received the National EMT Paramedic of the Year award. Dean has been employed with the Creek Nation EMS since June, 2003 and resides in Shawnee. He has been a paramedic for 12 years and is serving as our in-house instructor which oversees the department for education needs and works hand and hand with our medical director to implement new protocols.

Dean is also an instructor for Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic courses. Dean is also an CPR, ACLS and EVOC instructor.

"We are very proud of Jeff and Henry and our EMS staff," said Celesta Johnson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Administrative Officer. "As you know EMS staff are unique people who, on a daily basis save lives and treat patients in all types of situations, often putting themselves in harms way to get to the patient and provide lifesaving care."

In the rush of the daily events of the Ambulance service and Hospital we never seem to give our EMS staff the recognition they deserve.

We are very honored to have these two individuals receive a national award and our EMS staff for doing the great job they do each and every day."



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Creek man creates sports documentary

"I basically decided to do everything myself with one camera, but it also turned into editing, marketing, producing, making DVD's, the whole shebang."

By GERALD WOFFORD

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — The sport of volleyball involves a total team effort, but if each individual that is a part of the team is not willing to buy in, help each other and commit themselves to the cause, the desired result will never be met. It is this philosophy and approach that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lincoln Barnett takes to the game that he loves so much.

The Creek volleyball player, who was born in Los Angeles and raised in Oklahoma, recently produced a documentary about volleyball. The two hour production entitled, "Life of Mine: A Documentary on the Life of Volleyball in America," was a labor of love, or in Barnett's words, a different description.

"A big time struggle," says Barnett. "This being my first time I learned a lot because I basically decided to do everything myself. The premise was shooting it by myself with one camera but it also turned into editing, marketing, producing, making dvds, the whole shebang. I planned on eight months of shooting which turned into a year, followed by five months of editing. That is about right when you end up with 120 hours of raw footage and trying to turn it into two good hours. It was a great time making it and there are associated projects with it, but the editing and post production was the toughest."

Barnett knew the project would be time consuming and wanted to make sure his work showed that. He spared no expense in getting the right equipment.

"I Basically bought a nice Sony DCR VX2100 DV camera to shoot which gave me excellent video," said Barnett. "A couple extra mics, a shotgun and a lavalier, a decent tripod which was important, and I was ready to go. Then I bought a Macintosh G4 to edit the project in Final Cut Pro."

Not only did Barnett produce the documentary, he also built a web-site, The House of Volleyball, dedicated to the sport. He really liked all levels of the project and putting it together.

At all levels is right for Barnett, who got interested in the game at an early age. "I really started out playing with my sisters on the Indian co-ed volleyball circuit here in Oklahoma in the early to late 80's," he said. "Just like there used to be all Indian basketball there was a lot of volleyball going on at the tribal festivals and such."

As Barnett became interested in the game of Volleyball, he began to get a little more involved. "Once I started playing men's six man more seriously, I started playing out of state a lot," said Barnett. "I ended up playing club in Kansas City and going to Nationals all over the U.S. And I hit the beach somewhere in there. So I've had a chance to play with and against some great players and teams, but I've found out I still enjoy the game at all levels of play. I had tryouts with the national team early on but just didn't have the experience to play at that level since I didn't play in college. So for me just getting to a level where you know you're kind of close to playing with some of the best was satisfying for me."

Even though he didn't make the college or national team, the experience was more than enough for Barnett. "Playing club at adult nationals where all the best players in the country and abroad come out to compete," Barnett explains. "So winning a lot of men's open regionals here in Oklahoma



Creek Nation Festival Volleyball Tournament

and Kansas City and being able to play in the open at nationals was a big consolation for me. And I've been able to coach as an assistant and head coach at the high school, national club level, and collegiate level for 10 years now."

Barnett is also a bit of a historian of the game, analyzing all sides of the unique game and looking at where the game's roots really began.

"Volleyball grew out of the west coast and it is still the main place to find the most volleyball being played," says Barnett. "That's because of the beach, where all the best beach players live and train, and all the schools from high school to college which have

"Now that I'm back in Oklahoma, I still see the old dogs who I used to battle against but not many up and comers."

grown with the sport have maintained a high level of training. There are pockets in different places now where more athletes are playing and being trained that way."

Closer to home and looking at Indian participation in the sport, Barnett is sure to take in the Native action as well. He sees how volleyball is truly a social part of Native American life. Female opportunity is everywhere in high schools and colleges where males are the opposite so they're two very different stories. "Mostly here as you don't find them much throughout other parts of the U.S.," recalls Barnett. "I did see an all native girls team from Arizona playing at nationals and there might be more. Again, a lot of what was going on here was the adults in recreational settings which was still competitive and sometimes cutthroat, but just like in other areas all across the country the adult contingent who plays is stagnating and in some places dying out. So that's what I see now that I'm back in Oklahoma. I still see the old dogs who I used to battle against but not many up and comers."

According to Barnett, the player base in Oklahoma has always been small. Because of this you would only have a few teams of men and women that could compete and not really even in a national setting. Barnett recalls

competing in the Indigenous Games way back in '96 or so and playing against some really good teams from Canada. "Their 'skin' volleyball is definitely better than ours," he said. "The Indigenous games I competed in were probably the best and the only one I can rate volleyball wise. After that it went downhill somewhat. They decided to do youth volleyball only. So I felt that they shut out a lot of adults who were playing which is the bigger contingent of competitors who are playing the sport among Native Americans. The thing about youth is there are not many natives playing, as its more of a middle/upper class sport when you play club. High schoolers who don't play club usually don't have the commitment and skill level to compete in any type of national setting. So I think they were shooting themselves in the foot taking away the adults. I always thought that the most successful events among skins were family oriented because everyone likes to come out."

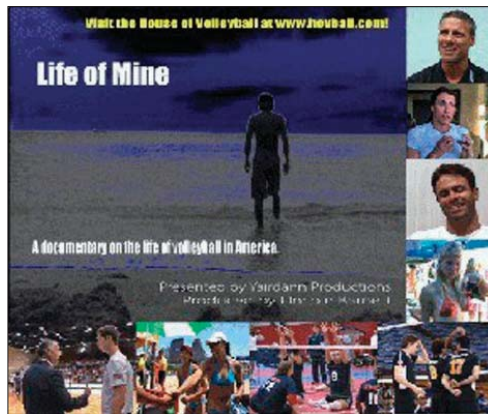
Because of his love for the game, it has always been Barnett's view to take the game, his web-site, as well other ventures in a no-nonsense approach. "First of all I want to be able to run a successful business," says Barnett. "These are creations of mine but also they reflect a new direction in where I'm going career and interest wise. So the goals I have with the website run two fold in that I want to provide unique and ground breaking resources and information to the volleyball community, but also be pro-

fessionally and technically proficient in how I go about it. If I get that part accomplished, all the ideas and projects I have can be conveyed and implemented correctly to help shape the volleyball world as we know it."

Barnett also follows the college game as well, and even makes prognostications about who will win it all. "Nebraska will be very good over the next 2 years and they are due to win a championship this year," he said. "With the men I always look at either UCLA or Pepperdine. The University of Pepperdine won the 2005 National Championship."

Barnett hopes with the making of "Life of Mine" that it will leave the right legacy, create more awareness and respect toward the game. "With the documentary I think in the end I hope it spurs more people on to do something about shaping the sport of volleyball in their area in a positive way," he said. "If one man can go around the country and shoot a documentary film by himself, and have it turn out where it helps shape the sport for the future, or at least is fun to watch while being informative, then others out there more talented than me can maybe do things wherever they are needed. With the film, I tried to address the issues so there's more uniform thought throughout the country in what needs to be done and I think I've done that."

For more information or to view footage, log onto the web-site at: www.hovball.com.



Tribal flags available for purchase

OKMULGEE—Muskogee Nation Flags are now available for purchase. Car window flags are \$13 or 3' x 5' flag are \$37. Prices include applicable sales tax.

For more information, call (918) 732-7633 or visit the tribal website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov to download a form. Mail form to: Mound Building-Over-sight Committee, c/o Muskogee Nation Supreme Court, P.O. Box 546, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

George Almerigi sworn in to Supreme Court
OKMULGEE—After holding several positions within the Tribe, Second Chief, Assistant Attorney General and Tribal Attorney, George Almerigi will begin his term as Chief Justice of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court. Almerigi has been a licensed attorney since 1983 and served four terms on the National Council.

LIHEAP Program to begin soon

OKMULGEE—Social Services Department will be accepting walk-in applications beginning Jan. 9, 2006 for the LIHEAP program, if funds are available. Participants will need to bring in the following: tribal citizenship

cards for everyone in the household, Social Security cards for everyone in the household, Income Verification for everyone in the household over the age of 18 years, and a current heating bill, bill must be in applicant or spouse's name only. If you have any questions, contact the office at (918) 759-2334

Casino security spread holiday cheer

MUSKOGEE—On Nov. 21, security officers at the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Casino combined their efforts to provide for needy families. A food drive was held at the casino to gather food items for families during the Thanksgiving holiday. "We know there are families that are in need, and at this time of the year it's great to be able to provide for them," said Captain Randy Johnston. Johnston was very pleased with the kind gesture displayed by his staff. "All the food that will be going out here today was provided by security officers here at the casino, and it came right out of their own pocket. I'm very proud of the guys. We plan to put another one on at Christmas time also."

Okmulgee Gaming gives back to community

OKMULGEE—The holiday season is back and Okmulgee Gaming Security is giving back to the community. All 34 officers at the Okmulgee Casino joined forces to provide 10 Thanksgiving baskets. The officers do this to show their appreciation to each and everyone of their customers and concern for their community.



Pictured above, from L to R, are: Chip Tyrrell, Jeff Martin, Earl Kelly and Mark Mooney.

Tribe hires two grant writers

OKMULGEE—The Nation has hired two grant writers, Julie Moss and Jo Anna Fixico. Moss works in the Division of Tribal Affairs. Moss started on Oct. 31, and has already submitted two grants to benefit environmental issues for the tribe. She lives in Tahlequah and three days per week enjoys the benefits of our transit system from Muskogee.

She has served as Treasurer of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, where she has also been the Director for Federal programs. She earned her master's degree in Community Development from Antioch University. She has successfully written grants for tribes and nonprofits for many years and formerly worked as an AmeriCorp/VISTA volunteer grant writer at a homeless shelter. She has represented the interests of rural, native women at international meetings and has been a speaker for several years through 2005 at the annual meeting in New York City of the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women.

Fixico began her duties as Grant Writer for the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Health System (MNHS) on Oct. 17. As the Grant Writer for the Health System, she coordinates the development of formal grant proposals to public and federal agencies and foundations.

Prior to her current service, Fixico was a research assistant at the Kercher Center for Social Research at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. As an evaluator and co-author of reports for the juvenile and men's drug courts and other delinquency prevention programs, Fixico analyzed participant response to program development and compliance as well as program implementation and development issues. Because of her efforts, in part, the Center maintained and completed approximately \$3,500,000 in contract research during a 10-year period.

In addition, she previously served on the RFP Review Committee of the Children's Trust Fund in Kalamazoo County and had one proposal fully funded by the State of Michigan in the amount of \$350,000. She has also served as a fund-raising specialist for a \$15 million capital campaign for a nonprofit economic development organization.

A graduate of Western Michigan university, Fixico earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She is also a graduate of Bacone College, Muskogee.



Moss



Fixico

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Division of Health

Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited professional school of nursing. Two (2) years of relevant experience in the field of Public Health. Incumbent is required to possess current licensure by the State of Oklahoma for Registered Nursing (prefer BSN), or Diploma, or an AD nurse.

Van Driver-Muskogee-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Van Driver-Twin Hills-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Health System Administrator - CNCH

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or related field of study is required. A Masters Degree (MPH) in a related field is preferred. A minimum of two (2) years of experience in the health care management/administration field is required, preferably in a tribal environment.

Medical Records Supervisor - Sapulpa

An Associate's Degree in Business Communications or a related field or graduation from a technical or vo-tech program in a related field of study. A minimum of five (5) year related experience is required. Related experience may be substituted for educational requirements and prior experience and knowledge of third party billing.

Human Resources Assistant
Associates Degree in a related field of study. One (1) year relevant experience. Additional experience may be substituted for education. Incumbent must possess current Oklahoma State Driver License and be insurable.

Clinician - Behavioral Health Services

A Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One (1) year relevant experience in counseling. LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensure/certifications as specified must be actively working toward obtaining this licensure/certification.

LPN - CNCH

Graduation from an accredited practical nursing curriculum is required. One (1) year relevant experience as a member of a

nursing team. Incumbent is required to possess current licensure by the State of Oklahoma for Practical Nursing and current CPR certification.

Health System Administrator - Sapulpa

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or related field of study is required. A Masters Degree (MPH) in a related field is preferred. A minimum of two (2) years of experience in the health care management/administration field is required, preferably in a tribal environment.

Clinical Director - Behavioral Health Services

A Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years experience as a licensed psychologist. Five (5) years of managerial or supervisory experience. Current Licensure by the State of Oklahoma as a Psychologist or Health Services Psychologist is required.

Patient Registration Clerk - Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Technology or a related field is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience is required.

Patient Registration Clerk - Okmulgee

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Technology or a related field is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience is required.

Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.

Physician

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license, Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to ex-

perience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

Nurse Practitioner - (Float Status)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. Three (3) years of relevant experience. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AACM or other body established for this purpose.

Staff Dentist - Coweta (3 Positions)

A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements or a new graduate preferably within an HIS preceptorship (internship).

Pediatrician - Coweta

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. specializing in Pediatrics. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine, DEA License, Medicare provider agreement and ACLS certification and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

Pharmacist - Coweta (2 Positions)

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of Pharmacy or is a Public Health Service (PHS) Pharmacy Officer. One (1) year of relevant experience as a Pharmacist or PHS Pharmacy Officer. Incumbent is required to possess a current Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy license or current license as required by the PHS Com-

missioned Corp.

Physician - Family Practitioner/Coweta

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license, Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the health system.

Medical Technologist Supervisor - Coweta

A High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Successful completion of 90 semester hours of academic credit necessary to satisfy requirements of the position as well as a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques at an accredited institution is required. Four (4) years of pertinent full-time Laboratory experience. Valid ASCP certification as a MT is required.

Radiology Technologist Supervisor - Coweta

Completion of a formal radiological program from an accredited college or hospital base program. A minimum of one (1) year of professional experience in the supervision of a Radiology Department. Current registration with ARRT as a Radiologic Technologist, CPR certification of an accredited IV Therapy course is required.

Optometrist - Coweta

O.D. Degree received from an accredited college of Optometry. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience. Valid License issued by the State of Oklahoma to practice Optometry.

Physician Assistant - Coweta (2 Positions)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. One (1) year of relevant experience preferred. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AACM or other body established for this purpose.

For more information, visit the website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%administration/Jobs.htm or call (918) 756-4333 or (800) 782-8291.

WILLIAM JACOB ALEXANDER
OAKHURST — Funeral services for William Alexander were held Nov. 8 at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church with Revs. George Doyle and Robert and Abby (William) Alexander.



William was born June 12, 1912 to Robert and Abby (William) Alexander.

He belongs to the Tiger Clan and spoke the Muscogee language fluently. He was ordained as a minister on May 30, 1980 and served as Pastor of the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for 24 years. However, due to his failing health, Bill relinquished his duties as Pastor in November, 2004.

Reverend Alexander was preceded in death by: his wife, Mary Harjo Alexander; his parents; two sisters, Louise and Margaret; one brother, Toby; and a son, Charles.

Survivors include: four children, Robert of Miami, E.J. of Pawnee, Jimmy of Glenpool, and Mary Sue of Tulsa; one brother, Henry Harjo, Sr. of Albuquerque, N.M.; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Floral Haven Cemetery in Broken Arrow.

SELEE ROBERTS DEERE

OAKMULGEE — Funeral services for Selee Deere were held Nov. 18 at Montezuma Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Fred Jones and Dennis Canard officiating. Mrs. Deere was born August 15, 1912 to Nancy and Mitchell Roberts. She was preceded in death by: her husband, Isaac Deere; her parents; three children; three great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Survivors include: Six children,

Tom, Robert Deere, and Lou Messer of Okmulgee, Wilson Deere of Liberty Mounds, Samuel Deere of Longview, TX, and Robert Pickett of Seminole; nineteen grandchildren; thirty-nine great-grandchildren; thirty-four great-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-great-grandchild; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Montezuma Cemetery

SAMARIA JACOBS JONES

MUSKOGEE — Funeral services for Samaria Jones were held Nov. 15 at Hampton Memorial Chapel with Rev. Ken Loma officiating.

Samaria was born July 10, 1922 to Joseph and Nancy (Lowe) Jacobs. She was a resident of Checotah, and worshiped at New Arbor Indian Baptist Church for several years until failing health forced her to move to Muskogee's Broadway Manor Nursing Home.

Mrs. Jones was preceded in death by: husband, Hugh R. Jones; her parents; one sister, Josephine Jacobs; one brother, Willie Jacobs; and one granddaughter, Angie Jones.

Survivors include: four children, Wilma and Sandy Hooten of Eufaula, Billy Joe Jones of Texanna, and William Jones, Sr. of Hulbert; two siblings, Steven Jacobs of Eufaula, and Betty Baker of Muskogee; 14 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at the Greenlawn Cemetery.

FREDERICK MANLEY

TULSA — Funeral services for Frederick Manley were held Sept. 29 at

Memorial Park Chapel.

Frederick was born Aug. 4, 1926 to Tom Manley and Eliza Phillips. He was a retired McDonnell Douglas employee of 32 years.

Manley was preceded in death by: his parents; and one sister, Nancy.

Survivors include: Wife, Cynthia; six children, Roger, Fredericka, and Douglas Manley - all of Tulsa, Brenda Cross of Broken Arrow, Virginia Manley of Hartsville, MO, and Claudine Manley of Coweta; one sister, Pauline; ten grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.



MINNIE POOLE

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Minnie Poole were held Nov. 12 at Little Quarsarty Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Fred and Joe Lindsey officiating.



Minnie was

born April 29,

1929 to Eddie

and Lucinda

Lindsey. She was

an active member

of Little Quarsarty

Indian Baptist Church,

and devoted to both

church and family.

Mrs. Poole

was preceded in

death by:

husband, J.D.

Poole; her parents;

and three siblings. Survivors include: eight children, Earl, Allen, Albert, and Randy Poole-all of Wetumka, Wanda Graham of Valliant, Linda Zientek of Shawnee, Marilyn Deere of Washington, and Pete Poole of Cromwell; six siblings; 19 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at the Little Quarsarty Cemetery.

GRATITUDE

The Alexander family would like to Thank everyone for their love and support following the passing of our dad, William Alexander. The many ministers and church members who offered prayers on our behalf, and the beautiful singing of our Creek hymns.

MVTO! to dad's nieces for all the food that was prepared and served. We appreciate it so much.

God Bless You,

The Rev. William Alexander Family

As family of Selee Deere, we would like to express our appreciation for all the support and services provided, your generosity is greatly appreciated. A special Thanks to Okmulgee Hospice, Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Mays Home Health Care, Seminole Hospital, Belvin and Montezuma Church, and the Pastors. There was so many that contributed and your services are greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks for your prayers and support.

The Selee Roberts Deere Family.

Selina Jayne (Muscogee Creek)
Beauty Consultant/Owner

MERLE NORMAN

Creek Girl, LLC

10 Oak Street ~ Eufaula, OK 74442

Ph: 918.618.4301 ~ Fax: 918.618.4305

email: creekgirl@intell.com

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Letters

continued from page A-2

delegates should right the wrong. The point is that the Cobell v. Norton class action lawsuit has not covered this taxation issue in Oklahoma. And, Cobell is saying she is willing to settle for \$27.5 billion. Initially, she said the government owed us hundreds of billions of dollars. Very few times have precedents been set because lawyers seem to always settle before the Indians get their fair remuneration.

Senator John McCain, of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs proposed legislation to settle the class action lawsuit. The draft legislation only wants to touch the surface of historical accountability from 1985 forward. In the early 1900's, the Five Tribes of Eastern Oklahoma had large amounts of money from minerals going into their IIM accounts, along with the Seminoles and Osages. Peaks of oil production commonly known as "boom" periods of minerals money to IIM accounts **WOULD NOT** be covered by Senator McCain's draft legislation. Again, the Osage Indian minerals will be the exception in McCain's legislation, as they are not addressed.

Jim Gray, Chief of the Osage Nation who serves on the Office of Special Trustee (OST) Advisory Committee and also Chairman of the Intertribal Monitoring Association, submitted principles for Cobell monetary settlement upon McCain's request prior to the draft legislation and appears to be in favor of settling the Cobell class action lawsuit.

The Office of Special Trustee held by Ross Swimmer is also another example of an Oklahoman who should know the history of Oklahoman oil and gas. Mr. Swimmer after holding the office of Assistant Secretary of the BIA, called for a meeting in the Wichita Tribal Complex in Oklahoma, soon after he left that office. In that meeting he proposed a lawsuit similar to the Cobell class action suit while working for a Washington law firm. Swimmer says there is no systematic rip off; that bring the case, why did Swimmer pro-

pose such a lawsuit at that time? Swimmer likely wanted Indian mineral owners to propose a lawsuit because he gained knowledge of inside information during his BIA job.

I have compiled historical documents dating back to the early 1900's, which can confirm many of the allegations for Oklahoma IIM account holdings, not addressed and others addressed by the Cobell lawsuit, for example state production taxes on Oklahoma Indian mineral holders, non-reimbursement for war bonds, failure to distribute interest earned on royalties and bonds, late posting of royalty payments, non-payment of annual rentals, and failure to terminate leases, among others.

One document addresses United States government-initiated war bonds and stamps to help finance the American war efforts of WWI. Individual Indians purchased over \$25 million dollars by the end of the war. Members of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma accounted for nearly half of the investment purchasing over \$11 million dollars worth of war bonds and stamps. Native Americans here in Oklahoma attempted requests to redeem the bonds were denied. My historical ledger records of my late father's, a minor's trust IIM account show large amounts of money were withdrawn to purchase war bonds and stamps that were never credited to his IIM account from the bonds. I tried to intervene in the Cobell class action case, but Defendant's lawyers objected and the judge denied my action after it had been filed for over a year. The defendant is the United States government.

My purpose in filing my motion in Cobell was to enter these historical records since both sides say there are "no records." I made sure both plaintiffs and defendants knew these records exist. I provided both sides with copies. When I first submitted my records to the Office of Trust Fund Management (OTFM), through the office of Mineral Management (MMS) Service Agent, Paul Tyler, I requested a reconciliation of my records. MMS forwarded my records to OTFM. Donna Irwin, OTFM, can confirm this as copies of these historical records were submitted to her office prior to enactment of the 1994 Trust Reform Management Act and prior to the Cobell

class action case being filed. When the judge denied my motion to intervene in Cobell, Defendants, the United States' government, termed me a "nonparty." If this is the case, then OTFM should proceed with reconciliation of my records, but have not. Cobell Plaintiffs' attorneys, the federal government, and the federal court are all aware my records exist.

Some years ago I asked my records be made a pilot project for individual reconciliation because as sole heir they would not be subjected to multiple heirship problems or fractionalization, as there would be in most other Indians' records. Why have the Cobell plaintiffs' attorneys not mentioned my records to the court or solicited other IIM account holders for their records? I requested assistance from the United States Congress. Two Oklahoma Congressmen answered my request with two differing views on how to approach the solution to my problem of obtaining a reconciliation and reimbursement for past due principal and interest due on amounts not credited to my IIM account.

Senator Tom Coburn, a member of the United States Committee on Indian Affairs, advised that I seek legal counsel because the solution to protecting my legal right falls under the judicial branch. Representative Dan Boren suggested that I rely on legislation for relief. I assume he is referring to the McCain draft legislation, not yet finalized.

I relied on legislation when the 1994 Trust Management Reform Act passed. If this Act was followed and enforced, the relief to which I, and other IIM account beneficiaries are entitled could be solved. Sadly, the government will not and apparently cannot enforce the laws already in place. Cobell would not have needed to file her lawsuit and Senator McCain's draft proposal would not have been necessary, if only the government will not and apparently cannot enforce laws and legal duty to IIM beneficiaries. Why do we need to make new legislation when there is already a law in place to reform trust management and provide an accounting to reimburse IIM beneficiaries for past losses beginning in 1887? Could it be the Treasury Department failed its duty to conserve Indian assets and used it all for other

causes? Now, Congress should, and I quote my great grandfather Crazy Snake, "Stand up and be a man that keeps his word all the time and under all circumstances. After all you made the laws and treaties, the Indians only agreed." I request each IIM account beneficiary speak against congress' \$27.5 billion-settlement proposal. The amount should be increased 100 fold, and yet can never cover the pain and suffering endured by all Indians, including our ancestors who died without ever knowing how much was taken and never repaid.

Indian people are not asking for a hand-out only what has been taken from their IIM trust accounts. Whenever the United States government needs money, they have no problem dipping into Indians' IIM trust accounts. Congress enacted laws such as one where IIM account money was used to pay old age pensions. Perhaps some relief of yours received a check intended to cover what was from their IIM account with a notice that said Indians could not bring action against the United States government once the check was cashed. I know one such check, which today has not been cashed. We need to always remember how many times the government used Indian money, which should be deposited in our IIM accounts for the benefit of all people. During World Wars I and II, the government took money out of IIM trust accounts for war bonds and stamps and failed to return it. How many war bonds have been repaid to Indian people's IIM accounts?

All Americans need to know the facts. During WWI, American Indians contributed at least \$25 million dollars. During WWII their contribution exceeded \$50 million dollars, not including interest due. Does anyone care enough to see that Indians get what is owed them by the United States government? Why can't the government satisfy the Indians for a change instead of legislating settlement in the government's favor?

I can be contacted for further information or questions at P.O. Box 2322, Oklahoma City, OK 73101. I have supporting documents to confirm my statements.

Sincerely,

Eddie Jacobs

HOT CORNER

by
JASON SALSAMAN

It's Christmas time here at the Muscogee Nation News, and that can only mean one thing: the end-of-the-year edition of the Hot Corner. 2005 has been an unbelievable year in the sports world. What better way to cap off the past year than with college football's most exciting and entertaining month, the bowl season? I know most people, including myself, would prefer a playoff system but the bowls provide intriguing matchups that you may otherwise not ever get to see. What about Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden with over 700 wins combined hooking up in the Orange Bowl? Or the tradition rich Fiesta Bowl matching college football icons Notre Dame and Ohio State? No matter what bowls you watch this season, chances are they're going to include a flare for the dramatic and make for some great television. Let's take a look at three bowl matchups of interest in our state.

Rose Bowl (BCS Championship)
Texas (12-0) vs. USC (12-0)

This is the big one. The teams that have been at the top all year long have finally reached the end of their collision course. Texas and Mack Brown are in unfamiliar territory. They've finally got over the hump and are in the title game, bringing the Big 12 championship and loads of talent with them to sunny Pasadena. The Trojans, meanwhile, are simply tuning up for something that they have gotten used to. They have won 34 consecutive games and will be looking to become college football's first 3-peat national champion. USC's twin Heisman winners will be too much for Texas, who will have a false sense of security after coasting through a less than decent Big 12 conference. Prediction: USC 42, Texas 24.

Liberty Bowl

Tulsa (8-4) vs. Fresno State (8-4)
Tulsa is fresh off its Conference USA championship win in their inaugural year in the league and will travel to Memphis to face their old foe from the WAC, the Fresno State Bulldogs. Coach Pat Hill's team gave USC everything it wanted a few weeks back and can be a very explosive football team. They will provide a great challenge for the Golden Hurricane, but one they can meet. After all quarterback Paul Smith will still be throwing to Garrett Mills, the NCAA record-holder for single season receiving yards by a tight end. Prediction: Tulsa 38, Fresno State 35

Holiday Bowl

Oregon (10-1) vs. Oklahoma (7-4)
The Holiday Bowl matches two teams who probably shouldn't be in this game. TV big-wigs cost Oregon a BCS bowl by choosing Notre Dame and awful officiating at Texas Tech cost the Sooners a berth in the Cotton Bowl. Mike Bellotti and Bob Stoops are coaches at the top of their profession and their teams will be ready to play this game, which should be a dandy and foreshadow next year's early season matchup in Oregon. Look for Adrian Peterson to do some nice things and Malcolm Kelly to announce his presence to the world as the rebuilt Sooners make a strong statement and announce themselves as officially back at the top of the college football scene in 2006. Prediction: OU 35, Oregon 31

Creek athlete runs New York City Marathon

By Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

BROKEN ARROW—Kristy Perryman loves to run. But 26 miles through the Big Apple? Come on!

Perryman, a Creek citizen, just returned from New York City where she ran alongside more than 37,000 people in this year's New York City marathon. "A truly amazing experience," she said. "It's one that I won't forget anytime soon." That is probably an understatement considering the toll that the 26 mile run takes on the body. But that is just fine with Kristy, she's never shyed away from action. "I've always been an active person," she admits. "It's just been a part of my personality for as long as I can remember."

She was active in high school, playing varsity basketball for the Broken Arrow Lady Tigers. That trend did not stop when she went to college at Oklahoma State University, where she continued to be involved in as many activities as possible. "When I was at OSU in the Native American Student Association, we participated in just about every intramural sport that you can think of," she said. "If they had offered water volleyball, I'm sure we would have signed up."

The desire to be active in her life never left Kristy, even after her college days. When the opportunity was no longer there to participate in team sports, she found something else that she could do, something that she would eventually grow to love: running. She found a joy in running. It wasn't only good for her, it was fun too. In 2001, she started running 5Ks, those are three mile runs to those of us that shy away from running too much. After participating in those runs and gaining endurance Perryman decided that it was time to take a step up, and in April of this year that is exactly what she did. Her and a friend decided to enter the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. They both completed the run and afterwards had high aspirations.

"When we reached the finishline in Oklahoma City, we were tired but we felt that we really had accomplished something and we could do more," she said. "We thought why not give the New York City marathon a shot?" But it wasn't that simple, they would need a little luck.

When Kristy and her two friends began researching the marathon and it's entry procedures, they found out that

"The preparation part is definitely more mental than physical in my estimation. Anybody can just slowly jog, but after so many hours and so many miles, your mind begins to wander."

their chances of participating in the run would depend on the luck of the draw. Because there is such a high number of people wanting to run each year, the marathon organizers conduct a lottery draw to see which runners will participate. There were over 200 runners looking for entry from the state of Oklahoma and roughly 80 were

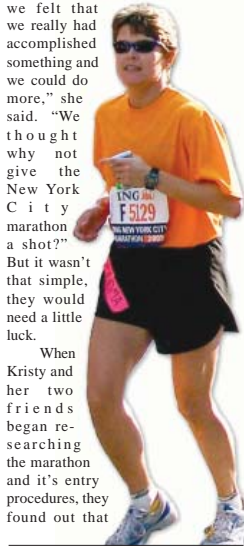
drawn. In June, Perryman visited the website to check who had been chosen and received outstanding news. She would be participating in the marathon, and so would both of her friends. "I was so glad that all of us were chosen," Perryman said.

They would have celebrated, but there was no time. This was the New York City marathon only five months away, and they had to get to work. Perryman and her friends trained together, running on Saturdays anywhere from 6-20 miles each time. She also trained alone, running about 4-5 miles a day by herself. Kristy explained how the training affected the mind more than the body. "The preparation part is definitely more mental than physical in my estimation," she said. "Anybody can just slowly jog, but after so many hours and so many miles, your mind begins to wander."

All that training paid off as Kristy and her friends started and finished the race together weaving through Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx with thousands of people lining the streets watching them. "I was just awestruck," said Perryman explaining the race atmosphere.

If you are thinking that this will be Kristy's last race, think again. "I want to do at least one of these a year, and I'd really love to come back to New York next year, maybe bring my friend Ange Bunner," she laughed. Not everyone shares the same enthusiasm about her running. Her parents, Rhol and Kathy Perryman, worry about the lasting effects it will have on her. "Mom and Dad think my knees will give out when I'm older," she says. "They think I'm crazy, but they are so supportive of me no matter what."

As for now, Kristy is still running about 12 miles a week and staying fit. She plans to continue her running for years to come. "It's not really an accomplishment thing for me anymore," she says. "I just have lots of fun with it."



"Wolf Man" brings kickboxing to Creek country

by JASON SALSAMAN

MNN Sports Reporter

OKEMAH — It is probably a safe bet that most citizens in Creek country have never been exposed to the sport of kickboxing. John Wolf is changing that.

The "Wolf Man," as he is known in the martial arts community, recently held an event in Okemah and he is not stopping there.

Wolf has teamed up with the Oklahoma

Boxing Commission to create the Native American Muay Thai Association. "This

is an open division that will represent all tribes, we're really excited about it," Wolf said.

Wolf is in the process of contacting all of the state's Indian tribes to have an All Nations championship with the recognition of the tribes.

"The title belt has already been made, it's

just a matter of getting together with the tribes and getting the recognition," Wolf said.

Wolf is no stranger to the ring himself. He has been involved in martial arts for over 17 years, compiling a record of 19-4 with 11 wins coming by way of a knockout. He is a three time champion, holding both the U.S. and Intercontinental titles. Wolf plans to retire next year, but he wants to end his career with a bang. He wants his last fight to be right here in Creek Nation's backyard. "My goal is to fight for the All Nations championship in Okemah next year at the (Creek) festival," he said. "It's one of the main goals that I'm setting for myself, I want to bring the title home."



Professional kickboxer John Wolf poses with his championship belt.

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

Should there be a playoff system in college football or the bowl season?



A lot of "modern" thinkers today assume a playoff system will take care of things, just like they thought the instant replay format would help eliminate game controversy. We've seen that it doesn't. If you have a playoff system, how many

teams do you choose to be invited and what criteria do you use to choose those teams? Do you penalize teams from smaller schools who had winning seasons by not going to the playoffs? Because with the playoff system, the elimination of all bowl games would be in jeopardy, and then a great part of college football would be gone, rewarding good athletes on a good season.



I've always thought that bowls are good for college football, but lately that opinion is starting to change. Every year there is controversy in the BCS and every year a playoff seems to make more sense. I mean, are we not better off finding out

who the national champion is on the field rather than on a computer screen? There are also too many bowl games. What kind of sense of accomplishment can teams get for making a bowl game when over half of all Division I teams are given invitations? I know the bowl games are fun, but it's getting out of hand. Before long, we'll be tuning in to the OG&E TiddlyWinks Bowl!



Ted Isham Creek Council House Museum Curator



Tulsa Creek Nation Casino Promotions



Weber's Superior Rootbeer & Burgers food review



Section C, Page 1

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

December 2005

Entertainment News

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Film and Video Center of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is announcing the 13th Native American Film and Video Festival in December 2005. Look for the Call For Entry Announcements in December at www.nativenetworks.si.edu (English) or www.redesindigenas.si.edu (Espanol)

The center also hosts a series called "At The Movies," which celebrates Native stories and the work of Native Americans in the movies — directors, actors, writers, musicians and cultural activists. In December, NMAI will play host to a very significant Native American production. The movie is the 1972 film, "House Made of Dawn."

This film adaptation of N. Scott Momaday's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is a story of loss and redemption. A young man, played by poet Larry Littlebird, must cope with his life in two distinct but conflicting worlds of the 1970's — his reservation in the Southwest and the gritty urban environment. Richardson Morse's quiet, insightful film ultimately celebrates the natural and the enduring.

The inaugural screening of a new 35mm print produced for the National Museum of the American Indian, with support from the American Film, happened on Dec. 8 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. and on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the NMAI Museum in New York City.

Christmas in the Clouds

ALBUQUERQUE NM— At the Fifth Annual Red Fork Native American Film Festival in 2002, a funny comedy entitled, "Christmas in the Clouds," made its Oklahoma debut. The film, starring Graham Greene, Wes Studi, and Shirley Tousey, was made in 2002 and is still garnering nationwide attention. Billed as the first Native American romantic comedy, "Christmas in the Clouds" was set to open nationwide the week after Thanksgiving. After an initial run in California, plus Gallup and Farmington, New Mexico, this award-winning holiday film will open in 12 more states on Dec. 2 and Dec. 9.

The movie is featured in the December issue of *Oprah Magazine*. The film is also being described as "a funny, spirited December charmer that will put you in a festive mood without leaving you with Jingle Bells overload," according to the film's web-page.

For more information about this delightful family film and its innovative campaign for school fundraisers, visit www.christmasintheclouds.com.

Festival accepting films productions

OAXACA, Mex. — The Eighth International Film and Video Festival of Indigenous Peoples in Oaxaca, Mexico are accepting films and video productions.

The festival is seeking works in film and video in any genre and on any topic related to the economic, cultural, organizational, social, political, and creative aspects of indigenous communities. Productions that directly promote political parties or governmental institutions will not be considered. A designated jury will determine which works are chosen to receive awards. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2005.

For more information, log onto: www.clacpi.org.

Red Fork Native American Film Festival



Red Fork Film Coordinators Gerald Wofford and Steven Woods.



Filmmakers Rodney Pocowatchit, Guy Ray Pocowatchit, and Mark Wells talk about their film "Sleepdancer."



Pictured, from L to R, are: Filmmaker and Musician Sherwood Ball, Musicians Danny Lancaster, Jimmy "Junior" Markham, and Barney Ingram give the audience a musical treat at the Red Fork Native American Film Festival.

At the Movies with Josh Slane

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" certainly has a lot to live up to. Being the first HP movie to receive a PG-13 rating, it promises to be darker than the previous HP movies.

The movie, from the opening scene to the credits, lives up to and exceeds its promise, including things such as the Tri Wizard Tournament and even the return of the evil Lord Voldemort. This movie has enough action and suspense to keep the movie interesting and keep tensions high.

However, this movie also tries to show the three friends dealing with growing up. In this it's considerably less successful that it was in the action. The fight between Harry and Ron seems forced as does the scorn the kids show Harry during the beginning of the Tri Wizard tournament.

The romance is just as bad, as it seems to have been written by someone who went from 13 to 30 and had no real experience being 14. It includes the classic teenage angst and nervousness, hope and depression, but it

lacks the magical touch that makes characters seem real.

Over all though, the movie is very good and fans of Harry Potter should enjoy it thoroughly enough, though it needs to be said that as the books get longer it becomes impossible to include everything from the book in the movie.

Movies at a Glance is brought to you by the Dickinson Starworld 20 theater in Tulsa. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is rated PG-13.



Ted Isham
Creeks Council
House Musuem
Curator

Traditional Creek Clothing Classes to be held in January

OKMULGEE — During the Saturdays of January, the Creeks Council House Museum will proudly host a series of classes that will bring together some of the finest clothing artists and the general public together to learn all aspects of traditional Creek clothing styles. Especially encouraged to attend these classes are the potential contestants of the upcoming Miss Mvskoke Pageant. It would be wonderful to be able to say that each contestant made their own clothing in the competition.

The class schedule will be as follows: there will be four classes on Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2006. The times for each class will be from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. with a food item brought for a potluck lunch for each Saturday class. The classes will be held at the Creeks Council House Museum in downtown Okmulgee. The address is

106 W. 6th St and the contact number is 918-756-2324.

Students will be able to make from the start to finish, a dress or long coat with the material and colors of the students' own choosing. This series of classes marks the ongoing nature of what the Creeks Council House Museum sees as the revitalization and promotion of the Arts and Culture of the Mvskoke Tribe. These classes are being held in conjunction with the CN Cultural and Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Arts Council, with support from the National Endowment of the Arts.

The classes will concentrate on the making of traditional Creek clothing both dresses and long coats. A history of traditional Creek clothing will be also given. The classes will be held at the Creeks Council House Museum where the stu-



dent will have access to sewing machines or can bring their own. Each student will bring their own material to use,

approximately seven yards, but the other sewing supplies will be provided.

The classes will be taught by two leading artists of the Mvskoke tribe,

Jimmie Carol Fife-Stewart and her sister Robin Fife-??, who both recently completed a Master/Apprentice program

through the Oklahoma Arts Council. The Master/Apprentice program concentrated on passing on the knowledge of their mother,???, a Creek artist in a one-on-one intensive learning experience.

These two will continue the concept of the Master/Apprentice program by teaching to a wider group. The MCN Pageant Committee has agreed to support these classes and make them available to any potential contestant. The concept of making your own clothing for the pageant competition is a natural and beneficial progression of what the pageant is all about, the learning of Creek traditions and ways.



Learning about the history of how we, the Southeastern Tribes have come to use the prairie dress as traditional will be explored. Both the history of where clothing began, as utilitarian use, and where it may go to, as an art form, will be discussed. The classes are open to all tribal citizens who have a desire to, learn the history of clothing, how to artistically interpret clothing styles and even how to make items of clothing. The classes are open especially to any potential pageant contestant who may want to make their own clothing for the upcoming competitions.

The classes are free of charge but space will be limited, so you must call the Creeks Council House Museum to reserve your spot in the class. Participants will be responsible for their own material used, which is approximately seven yards and other details will be given when signing up for the classes.

For more information, contact (918) 756-2324.

Award Creek artist inspired by Mound Builder Era exhibits Nation wide

EUFULA — Jon Tiger's work is based on Native History and is inclusive of Tribes that are represented in his immediate

versity of Science and Arts in Chickasha, OK and Oklahoma State Technical School in Okmulgee, Ok.

He is an active member of the West Eufula Indian Baptist Church.

Over the past 33 years his work has been exhibited in Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico and Arizona, and has accumulated an impressive array of awards and honors.

In November 2004, he exhibited at the Eufula Mayor proclaimed November 1 as "Jon Tiger Day". He has designed several conference posters and text cover illustrations for publications concerning Native issues. He is included in "The Biographical Directory of Native Americans Painters" by Patrick D. Tester in 1995.

An award-winning artist, Tiger exhibited his work in Celle, Germany in 2002 in a 12th Century castle and received very positive results. His most recent work includes a mural commissioned by the Boy Scouts of America. The mural depicts four large animal images and is currently on display in the new BSA Headquarters in Tulsa, Ok. as part of their permanent collection. His work is included in many private and public collections.

To obtain prices of artwork for sale, contact the Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Cooperative, located in the Southern Plains Indian Museum, PO Box 966, Anadarko, Ok. 73005, or call 405-247-3486.

After the exhibit closes, contact Jon Tiger directly at 918-689-3654 or 918-689-5066 for an appointment to view his artwork at his home studio.

Recently during an art show in Eufula Tiger exhibited his art, and looks forward to the opportunity to do more like it in the future. "I'd love to continue doing this as long as they will have us" said Tiger. "Noah Deere depicted a lot of older ceremonial type paintings that are shown here today in Eufula, the kind that you do not see too often anymore." Over 40 pieces of ceremonial art and numerous cultural items were on display at the show.

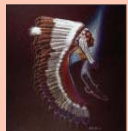


ate Creek family. Tribal history depicted in his artwork include: Creek, Kiowa, Wichita, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Choctaw, Hochunk, Chickasaw and Cherokee. Many of his pieces are inspired by the Mound Builder Era.

An enrolled full-blood Mvskoke (Creek) of the Raccoon Clan of the Red or Warrior Town of Eufula-Canadian Tribal Town, he was raised by his maternal grandparents, the late Bennie Buckskin and Susie Cosar Scott of Eufula, Ok.

At his rural McIntosh country home, Tiger is surrounded by wild turkey, deer, coyote, bobcat and other animals that come into his yard and are depicted in many of his pieces. Tiger works in multimedia utilizing acrylic, watercolor, Prisma color pencil, graphite, oil, ink and wood burning techniques. The size of his work ranges from miniature to large scale realistic expressions of his subject matter. He extends his painting skills to three dimensional animal skull forms. He is a sign painter and has facilitated several public school presentations.

Tiger began his education in Eufula Public Schools. Predominantly self-taught, he furthered his studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. He continued his education at the Uni-



Creek Metalsmith reknown for Jewelry

NEW MEXICO — Kenneth Johnson is a distinguished Muscogee and Seminole jewelry designer with over 17 years of experience in the arts.

Johnson's signature techniques in jewelry are recognizable with his use of old coins, heavy stampwork and flowing engraving. He utilizes symbolism to articulate South-eastern motifs in metal. His hair ties, bracelets, gorgets and wall hangings serve as a canvas for his interpretation of "modern South-eastern style."

Johnson was raised in Oklahoma and attended Seneca Indian School, Sequoyah High School and the University of Oklahoma. He began creating jewelry in 1988, when he apprenticed with Choctaw metalsmith Johnson Bobb, who taught him the foundation of silversmithing—basics which he has independently refined into the level of expertise that he is known for today.

Johnson's career achievements include the 2005 Santa Fe Indian Market's "Most Creative Use Of Stampwork" Standards Jewelry award, 2003 Red Earth "Best of Show", 2003 Creeks Council House Museum Featured Artist, 2001 Tulsa Indian Art Festival's Featured Artist, 1999 Smithsonian Museum/NMAI's Artist-in-Residence and a 1997 Santa Fe Indian Market Artist Fellowship, among others.

Johnson's professional service includes judging for the Red Earth Festival and Eight Northern Pueblo's art competitions, SWAIA board of directors Co-chair and Council of Artists chair where he represented the interests of over 1000 artists to that board. He is slated to serve as a panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts in Washington, D.C. in 2006.

The Creeks Council House Museum in Okmulgee and the Red Earth Museum in Oklahoma City also house Johnson's works in their permanent collections. In 2004, Johnson was commissioned to create a set of 4 new crowns for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's

tribal princesses.

Currently Johnson's work, most notably an 18k gold, platinum and diamond 3 tiered turtle gorget, is featured in the Changing Hands 2 exhibit at the Museum of Art and Design in New York City, NY. This traveling exhibit is scheduled to come to the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma in June 2007.

"I enjoy what I do immensely. As a contemporary designer, I am inspired by the art of our people, both present and past. Thlophlocco artist Johnny Diacon made one piece I like to talk about several years ago.

It was a commode decked out with Andrew Jackson's image on the \$20 going down the bowl, spikes in the seat and treaty statements on the back. He transformed a lowly utilitarian object into important art to address the memory of injustice. This year the news of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker sighting moved me to create the "CACAKWV" woodpecker bracelet in copper and silver. To me, it created an opportunity to bridge historical tribal ties with this majestic bird and link it to current events. I encourage more Creek people make use of their voice in the arts, and am honored to share my story in this forum. MVTO!" says Johnson.

Kenneth is the son of Rowena Johnson and grandson of the late Lucinda Walkingstick/ Bruner of Oakhurst.

He currently resides with his wife and two children in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Kenneth may be contacted at:

(505) 473-5365 or E-mail at kenneth@kennethjohnson.com.



Tulsa Promotions



12 Days of Paradise

We've changed the lyrics to a popular Christmas song! Imagine yourself on the sunny beaches of Hawaii, Cancun or the Bahamas, savoring the nightlife of New York, or hanging with the wallabies down under. Or would you rather just have \$10,000 in cold hard cash this Christmas? Whatever your Christmas wish may be...come join us to win during our 12 Days of Paradise. You may swipe your Players Club card daily from Dec. 11 - 22. Each night at 8 pm we will draw a winner, who will have a chance to pick from one of 12 stockings, each containing an extravagant getaway for two. Also, on December 22 after we give away our final trip, stick around for the \$10,000 Grand Prize Drawing!

Sunday, Dec. 11 - Dec. 22.

Queen of the Machines

\$10 Match Play Tournament

Ladies, it's your turn to win a brand new car! Swipe your card on Mondays beginning at 6 pm. At 7 p.m., 50 ladies will be drawn to play in our \$10 match play tournament. The tournament will consist of five rounds of ten players, with each round lasting one minute. The winner of each round will receive \$20 in cash to play in the final round of the night totaling \$2,500 in cash prizes. The winner of each week's tour-

namment will win a seat in our Bring Back tournament on February 20 to compete for the 2006 Chevy Cobalt!

Final Round Prizes each week: 1st Place: \$1000; 2nd Place: \$750; 3rd Place: \$400; 4th Place: \$250; 5th Place: \$100 Plus, Weekly half hour cash drawings from 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm!

Mondays starting at 6 pm (beginning Dec. 12).

Big League Fantasy

The Grand Prize winner of the Men's Night Big League Fantasy will receive a trip for two to the 2006 NBA Finals, 2006 Stanley Cup Finals, 2006 World Series, and 2007 Super Bowl! Men, start swiping your cards at Guest Services at 6 pm every Wednesday night. Between 7 pm and 10 pm, drawings will be held every half hour with prizes totaling \$2,500 in cash. At 10 pm, we will pick two lucky winners to receive \$500 plus a certificate that could possibly earn you the Big League Fantasy Grand Prize on February 22, 2006!

Seniors Wake up to Win

Seniors, rise and shine at Creek Nation Casino Mondays through Thursdays. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., our valued senior guests will receive \$5 free play and complimentary breakfast at our

Jackpot Café. What better way to start the day than with Creek Nation Casino's Wake Up and Win promotion!

Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$10,000 Collegiate Challenge

Get into the game with our exciting free Collegiate Challenge contest for your chance to win big! Each week throughout the season, come to Creek Nation Casino to pick the teams you think will win the upcoming college football games. Cash prizes will be awarded weekly (1st: \$150; 2nd: \$75; 3rd: \$50), and grand prize money will be given to the top three scores of the entire season (1st: \$5,000; 2nd: \$1,000; 3rd: \$500). Plus, we'll have two college bowl contests in December for more great chances to win!

Daily River Showdown

Poker tournaments are now playing at Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa! Pull up a seat in Oklahoma's most upscale Poker Room for our Daily River Showdown tournaments starting at 9 am. Registration begins at 8:30 am and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of just \$30 (and one \$20 re-buy or add-on).

Daily tournaments at 9 a.m.

The Big One

Men's Poker Tournament

Men, if you're ready to play for some big money, don't miss The Big One! Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday; buy-in is \$100.

Ladies Texas Hold'em Tournament

Ladies, Monday is your night for poker! Here's your chance to play in our luxurious new Poker Room with our Texas Hold'em tournaments starting at 7 pm every Monday. Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to all ladies of any skill level, with a buy-in of just \$20.00.

Paydays of Spades

*Suited Blackjack of Spades plays 3:2 plus a \$25 bonus. *Envy Bonus: All players at the same table as the person with the suited Blackjack get their original bets matched, up to \$10! *Hands totaling 21 composed of 7-7-7 all Spades receive a \$150 bonus. *Hands totaling 21 composed of 6-7-8 all Spades receive a \$100 bonus. *Five Card Charlies totaling 21 that include three Spades win a \$1,000 bonus.

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New Year's Eve Bash

Steve Hall and his sidekick Shotgun Red

Ring in the New Year with comedian Steve Hall and his sidekick Shotgun Red at Creek Nation Casino.

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WEBER'S

Superior Rootbeer & Burgers

By Gerald Wofford
MNN Writer

TULSA — Tulsa likes to prides itself on local treasures and rightfully so. Where else can you go and take in all the tasty delicacies of a shrimp scampi or the rich spicy flavor of a barbecue brisket. Well, lots of places, probably, but Tulsa does possess a lot of unique areas to take in a good meal. Weber's Superior Rootbeer and Burgers is one of those places. In the words of Mickey Bilby who manages the Weber's on Lewis, there is a little history of the eatery that is uniquely Tulsa's own.

"We are asked daily if our rootbeer is really home-made, our response is a definite yes. In fact only four family members know the recipe to WEBER'S SUPERIOR ROOTBEER. To say the least, our rootbeer recipe is a closely guarded family secret.

The birth of Weber's Rootbeer was a common event that became legendary. Legend has it that in the 1800's Oscar Weber Bilby, known as "Web" to family and friends, purchased 640 acres of land west of present day Tulsa. He farmed the land for many years to scratch out a living for his family. Web, like many of neighbors, made his own rootbeer. The rootbeer was made from 14 natural roots, bark and juices. It had a very distinctive taste. People would come from miles around just to get a jar of the special brew. Grandpa Web was even visited one time by Frank and Jesse James, who had heard about the famous rootbeer. They only stayed for a short while. As they left, they claimed "they had to catch a train." Grandpa web had no idea he had created what would commonly be known as "Tulsa's Best Brew."

Weber's Rootbeer is known as "Tulsa's Best Brew" due to the pain staking brewing process. Each time a new batch of rootbeer is made, a small amount of the rootbeer is saved to seed the next batch. This "batch-seed" process is what has kept the taste the same since the 1800's. After the "batch-seed" has been poured in to the new batch, the rootbeer is fired brewed by one of four family members. Finally after brewing, the batch is flavor aged in a special container. The final product is still served in frosted mugs, just as it was in 1933. So literally every sip of Weber's Superior Rootbeer is a taste of history.

In April of 1995, The *Dallas Morning News* reported "Tulsa beats out Texas as birthplace of delicacy." Michael Wallis, author of *Route 66, The Mother Road*, was quoted that he had discovered Tulsa's place in culinary history. The discovery was made while researching the states tastiest hamburgers. What better place to start than Weber's Rootbeer?

Mr. Wallis' research revealed that Oscar Weber Bilby was the first person to ever serve a real hamburger. On the Fourth of July of 1891 ground beef was served on his wife's homemade buns. The 4th of July party took place on his farm west of present day Tulsa. Until then ground beef had been served in Athens, Texas on sliced bread. This now is presently known as a 'pattymelt'. According

WEBER'S ROOTBEER



Pictured above is Weber's legendary Old Fashioned Root Beer in a frosty mug, along with a plate of onion rings and a juicy cheese burger.
photo by Gerald Wofford

to the Tulsa based author "the bun is essential".

Therefore, on April 13th 1995, Governor Frank Keating proclaimed that the real birthplace of the hamburger on the bun, was created and consumed in Tulsa in 1891. Governor Keating also proclaimed that the Athens, Texas feat of ground beef between two slices of bread to be a minor accomplishment.

Harold Bilby, grandson of Oscar Weber Bilby, was quoted by the *Dallas Morning News* to say, "we're not mad at Texas, we just want to educated them."

Weber's has 3 locations in Tulsa. They are: the original location at 3817 S. Peoria Avenue, 6670 South Lewis, and 6577 East 71st Street.

Hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Weber's is closed on Sundays.

Weber's Rootbeer & Burger Review
by Jason Salsman

Immediately upon arriving at Weber's Root Beer and Hamburgers, you get a sense that the food will be worth the trip. Not only from the delicious aromas that flow from the open kitchen, but from the shoulder to shoulder traffic that you encounter at lunch time. Yes, this place is

a Tulsa landmark and a popular one at that.

The menu is varied with several items to choose from, including their one-of-a-kind bowl of chili that I understand is a big hit with the loyal customers. On this day, however, I wanted to sample the items that make this place special and that is their old-fashioned homemade root beer and the delicious cheeseburgers.

The owner, Mickey Bilby, was a gracious host from the minute we stepped in the door and met us at our tables with tall, ice cold frosty mugs of homemade root beer. The root beer was crisp and tasty, a genuine flavor that lets you know that careful preparation went into the finished product. There is good reason that the secret recipe has been in the hands of only four family members throughout the years, and that's a big part of what makes it special.

I had to give their other specialty a try, the cheeseburger. But not just any cheeseburger, one that is a little different from the usual. Weber's prides itself on the sausage cheeseburger, made with ground beef and sausage, and I figured that since I had never ate one before it might

be a good idea to find out what all the fuss was about. The sausage cheeseburger has a distinct taste, a surprising fact to me as I was just expecting it to taste like the basic cheeseburger that I had always had. You can definitely taste the sausage that is ground in with the hamburger meat and it doesn't take away from that original flavor. If anything, it enhances the flavor. The sausage being mixed in gives the burger a spice that it would otherwise never have. You can add bacon or chili to the burger for a small fee, but I chose to enjoy it in its truest form. Add the delicious fresh cut french fries and it makes for an extremely satisfying meal. And of course, wash it all down with the famous Weber's root beer. Truly a treat.

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